

B.A.G. - in short bag
from the diaries of a certain Chris Noble, called the Hope
adapted by a certain Chris Low, called Man

I have carried it more than forty years
and want to carry it even longer.
The success fills my eyes with joyful tears
And makes me work harder and stronger.

We started as an official task
to help the new comprehensive schools.
Whenever the eager teachers would ask,
They should be given a lot of new tools.

Very soon we found out it was not enough
To develop curricula and all that stuff.
Communicative competence became the magic word
Which for many of us was rather unheard.

What happens, when the kids are naughty and bad
And make the teachers run rather mad?
So lots of worksheets we invented overnight
And pupils were persuaded to write and write.

But worksheets became boring, we wanted fun.
So the construction of building kits had begun.

Grammar remained a must, but not the old way.
New ideas were asked which we had one day;
We invented a system of exercise type –
Which then was rather an absolute hype.

But not enough for the schools and their social needs
For which we cultivated the social learning seeds.
Teachers experimented with mixed ability grouping,
They built streams and sets and flexible classes
in order to handle the different masses,
but for most of the kids it was kind of looping.

New strategies had to be found,
lessons had to be more pupil-bound.
Classroom discourse and interaction, open learning,
practical studies, qualifications and endless yearning
For the best of our schools, all the girls and boys,
Under the slogan: hard working, but full of joys.

There are more subjects and themes in Chris' s note-book,
but tonight it takes too much time to look
at them all. So we'd better not waste the precious hours,
as Chris and his teams earn most hearty showers
of thanks for their work, their ingenuity and steadiness.

For the future I wish them a Bag full of readiness.

Christa Lohmann, 16.05.2012