

Welcome ...

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Wishing all our readers a belated happy new year, we open this first edition of our 2023 Newsletter with an [editorial by our Director](#), Nick Bush who takes this opportunity to reflect on what the Centre achieved last year, what we learnt from it and how we are planning to leverage it over the coming year. Nick also shares exciting updates on our plans for 2023 and a brand-new initiative for the members of our community who would like to get more involved in the Centre's activities.

We are also delighted to announce that you can now book your place at both of our upcoming virtual Showcases. On 8th February we start our series of event with what we expect to be a very insightful conversation with Mark Thomas, activist, former management consultant and author of '[99%: How We've Been Screwed and How to Fight Back](#)', a 2019 Financial Times book of the year. Mark will look at the current economic approach - and the assumptions underpinning it – and how this could lead to a societal breakdown in much of the western world by 2050. However, Mark will argue that it doesn't have to be that way, and management consultants, and change leaders more generally, can maybe do something about it. So, don't miss the opportunity to join us and find out how to contribute to the creation of a better future. You can watch a video introduction to the lecture [here](#).

The second Showcase of the year '[Systems Thinking in consulting: why and how](#)' will take place on 7th March and will focus on systems thinking, the management discipline that has been developed specifically to address issues of complexity and uncertainty and can provide alternative solutions to some of the more intractable and commonly encountered problems that clients expect consultants to help with. Our presenter Patrick Hoverstadt is a leading authority on systems thinking and the author of '[The Grammar of Systems: From Order to Chaos & Back](#)' as well as the developer of the Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship and will discuss how we can rethink the way in which we approach business problems.

It is also a pleasure to share as our first main feature of 2023 '[A tale of two boys](#)', written by Dr Ashley Smith FCCA FCIM, an inspirational piece on the importance of continuous development. By sharing his and a friend's personal stories, Ashley shows how it is never too late to make the decision to improve ourselves and change career, regardless of one's background or previous experience. Effort and determination can help us build a better future for ourselves: a very much needed and highly inspirational message to start a new year.

Our [In-Brief](#) section features a series of articles focusing on current topics that include tech leadership, human-machine relationships and the future of work in financial and professional services.

We are curious to hear from you and find out whether your tech is a game-changer. It's hard to think of a business sector that hasn't been impacted by new technology in the last few decades and management consulting is no exception. Consulting firms are already using AI to automate tasks that

junior analysts would perform. For example, chatbots can perform coaching roles and [ChatGPT](#) could soon be writing your final report instead of you.

At CMCE, we're constantly trying to identify the next wave of innovation that might provide a step change in the benefits available to consulting clients, whether that's new approaches, smarter software or fancy gadgets. We're really interested to know what our network members have found the most useful so please drop us a line to let us know:

- Any technology you use that's really helped in your practice or client delivery.
- Whether that's a "game changer" – by causing you to work in a different way or making you work in largely the same way but more productively.

Or is there any tech you'd really like to see that hasn't been made available yet?

Let us know your thoughts – they'll all be read by a human being – at info@cmce.org.uk

Finally, we would like to remind you that there are still opportunities to have one of your articles featured in our 2023 CMCE Newsletter. So, if you are subject matter expert and would like to share your knowledge and expertise on a specific topic, please [read further](#) to find out how to write an editorial contribution for the CMCE Newsletter. This is a great opportunity to reach out to our varied audience of academics and practitioners in management consulting and related fields. If you have a content idea, get in touch on info@cmce.org.uk We look forward to hearing from you!

The Newsletter Editor

The Centre for Management Consulting Excellence was founded by

