Virtual Quad
by Mansfield College

Weekly events, tips, and reflections
Week 4 - Michaelmas 2021
Hello,

I’m Gail, the Tutor for Welfare in Mansfield.

I’m here as Tutor for Welfare to meet up with students to discuss any concerns you have. I also lead the junior dean teams and plan welfare policy in college, liaising with university bodies as well as students and staff at Mansfield. You can email me if you want to meet up or if you have any questions or issues you’d like to raise.

I am not a qualified counsellor or psychotherapist but I have done listening training on the Introduction to Counselling course at ContEd, a Mental Health First Aid course and training for a listening service helpline. I don’t have ‘the answers’ but I hope I can sit alongside you and offer warmth and attention to the challenges, big or small you face in your fast changing lives.

I’m in college **Tuesdays, Fridays and part of Wednesdays** but I can be easily contacted by email in office hours during weeks 0-10. I would caveat that if you are facing an emergency, don’t rely on email; phone someone, whether it is a junior dean or the porters. They can put you in touch with the staff you need in an emergency.

(continues on next page)
To give you a sense of who I am: I have been a Philosophy Lecturer at Mansfield for six years, with a gap in the middle. I was an undergraduate on the PPE course in Oxford and then did the Philosophy BPhil and DPhil here. Before that, I grew up in South Lincolnshire with dogs and books. Outside work, I’m a parent of a 4 year old and this occupies most of my time these days – getting covered in cake mix, collecting woodlice, learning facts about dinosaurs and cetaceans, admiring particularly special sticks, making treasure hunts. At one time, I spent my leisure time reading philosophy and literature, wandering around art galleries and swimming and drinking overpriced coffee.

Looking forward to seeing you around college!

Gail Leckie
Tutor for Welfare, Mansfield College
email: gail.leckie@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Artists of the Future: The Mansfield-Ruddock Art Prize 2021

Friday 5 November, 5.30pm

Judges Yana Peel (Global Head of Arts and Culture at Chanel) and Dr Stephanie Straine (Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh) will be joined by the winners of the 2021 Mansfield Ruddock Art Prize to discuss their work. With thanks to Mansfield alumnus, Sir Paul Ruddock.

Sir Joseph Hotung Auditorium Admission Free | All Welcome
Sign up www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/mansfield-college-public-talks
The Concept of Liberty: Isaiah Berlin and Charles Taylor

What is freedom? This talk will examine the writings of Isaiah Berlin and Charles Taylor to indicate how their disagreement over the concept of liberty was not so much predicated upon an analytic distinction as it was based on different normative priorities and methodological assumptions. These differences stemmed from their particular political commitments: although they were both opposed to Soviet Communism, Berlin was a Cold War liberal, whilst Taylor was a committed New Left socialist. Berlin and Taylor’s respective politics were reflected in the methodological approach which they adopted. Berlin’s emphasis on maximising choice was what prompted him to divide the history of ideas into two competing ideological camps, while Taylor’s concern with Marxist alienation led to a hermeneutical approach that emphasised the significance of self-interpretation. Their divergent interpretations of liberty were thus rooted in the politics of the method which they respectively employed.

“Cook up the World like a Good Curry”: Context-Ethics in Classical Indian Philosophy

Often, where a philosopher like G.E Moore - father of modern philosophical ethics, might expect someone to speak of being ‘good’, Indian texts have no word for Goodness. Instead they speak instead of doing something well, and having overview, self-control, and creative grasp. Why is this? Does Hinduism have no real ethics? In this talk, we look at a hidden context-ethics in Indian classical texts. It likens responsible agents to skilful chefs, doctors, artists and even Gods: in this worldview, a ‘Good’-less ethics rises from our drive to creatively shape the world.

Thursday | Week 5 | 11.11.2021
5:30pm: Pre-seminar drinks in the MCR
6pm: Talks in the auditorium
7:30pm: MCR/SCR dinner
Mental Wellness webinars for staff and students

These practical talks for staff and students aim to increase understanding of mental health issues, break down myths, and help promote the mental wellness of ourselves and those around us.

Grief After Bereavement
(18 November with Kirsten Smith)

Register here: https://talks.ox.ac.uk/talks/id/5e658157-ad0b-4137-9f96-1aca2516644d/
Wishing all students a
Happy Diwali
THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021

Diwali (also known as Deepavali or Divali) is the annual Festival of Lights which is held on the darkest night of the Hindu lunar calendar.

Join the chaplain tomorrow (Thursday) at 4 to help decorate the college for Diwali. Email the chaplain at chaplain@mansfield.ox.ac.uk if you would like to help. Sweets will be provided!
The **Polari Prize** is the UK's first and largest LGBTQ+ book award. Members of the college can borrow this year's shortlisted works and winners from the library. More information can be found here: [https://www.polarisalon.com/polari-prize](https://www.polarisalon.com/polari-prize)
Got a difficult task to focus on?
Can’t get started?
Can’t stay focused?

In “Shut up and Focus!”, we get together and make a commitment as a group to focus, studiously, with purpose and without distractions. We are in it together. It’s a limited time with company, coffee, tea and cake. It’s for everyone in college – JCR, MCR, staff.

Tuesdays 11-12.30pm and Thursdays 2-3.30pm in Main Building, room 1.

How it works:
• Beforehand: Choose a task to bring to focus on.
• 11 am/2pm: Get coffee/tea/cake.
• 11.10 pm/ 2.10 pm: Focus!
• 12 pm/ 3 pm: Have some free coffee/tea/cake and congratulate yourself.
One-to-one study skills support for any undergraduate student of any subject. Please contact your subject mentor by email to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

- Gail Leckie (Philosophy)  
gail.leckie@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
- Yashua Bhatti (Theology)  
yashua.bhatti@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
- Rachel O’Nunain (English)  
rachel.onunain@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
- James Harris (Maths, Physics, Engineering, Materials)  
  james.harris@chch.ox.ac.uk
- Henry Tann (History)  
  henry.tann@balliol.ox.ac.uk

If your subject is not mentioned, please contact Gail Leckie, as Tutor for Academic Support, who can signpost you to a source of support for your subject.
Would you like to have the skills and confidence to offer a helping hand to other students in your department? Contribute and engage with your student community? Promote and create welfare and wellbeing spaces in College?

Training as a Peer Supporter is a great way to develop personal and social skills that will be useful in all your relationships as well as making a positive contribution to the welfare support in your department. The Peer Support Programme offers experiential training focusing on active listening, assertive communication, diversity awareness and support skills, self-awareness and self-care.

Please feel free to email The Peer Support Programme with any questions you may have at peersupport@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Find more information at https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/peersupport
Welcome to Mansfield College Boat Club! We are a group of undergrads and postgrads, run by a student committee, who train pretty often and race at least once a term. Almost all of our members haven’t rowed before starting at MCBC so we welcome novices of all sporting abilities with open arms. Even within a term of rowing, everyone can progress so much and the final standard of our rowing is pretty speedy!

If you have any questions, you can find us on facebook.
A walk in Shotover
Curated by Prof. Stephen Blundell
Getting there is best by bicycle (it’s about 20-25 minutes on a bike from Mansfield, a 3.5 trip, although the last bit is up a very steep hill, for which I will admit to getting off and walking) or use the No15 bus to get close (to walk the whole thing would take just over an hour). The route is easy: take Morrell Avenue (the one that goes up on the right-hand side of South Park) and then keep going straight on at every junction. You’ll eventually find yourself in the car park for Shotover Park, where there are some bicycle racks where you can lock your bicycle.
The route that you take continues as a dirt track through Shotover park, and it is interesting to think that this was once the main route from Oxford to London. Shotover (whose name may derive from an Old English phrase meaning “steep slope”) is up on a high hill and affords great views over the surrounding countryside, and at the moment (the pictures shown were taken on Saturday) the woods are full of bluebells. It’s a tranquil place to sit down and read a book, or dream of ancient times as you explore the woods that were once known as “The Forest of Shotover”.
Who the Careers Service supports

The Careers Service supports all 12,510 undergraduate students, 13,044 graduate students at Oxford.

The Careers Service's dedicated support extends to more than 5,800 research and research support staff.

Oxford alumni can engage with the Careers Service for LIFE through access to 1:1 sessions with careers advisers, jobs board, careers fairs, workshops, and more.

Each college, department and faculty has a careers adviser dedicated to them.

Student societies can engage with the Service by advertising opportunities, attending a careers fair, co-host events, and more.
Chapel service

Every Wednesday at 18:15pm at Mansfield College Chapel

Join chaplain Stephen Hearn and fellow students and staff at Mansfield for an evening of prayer and song
MCR - Wine and Cheese Evenings

Every Thursday at 19:30-21:30pm
at MCR Common Room
Mansfield College Ball 2022
SATURDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 18:00

Per Oxford tradition, Colleges host their Ball every three years. This year’s theme is “Paradise Lost”, embarking guests on a poetic journey across Mansfield’s Garden of Eden.

The Ball will be a black-tie event, with free drinks, food, music and entertainment across the College’s grounds.

We will offer **non-dining tickets** for **£100**, as well as dining tickets for **£140**, giving you the chance to attend a three-course dinner with wine (or non-alcoholic options) in the Mansfield Chapel. Please let us know when booking your ticket if you have any dietary requirements or allergies, regardless of which ticket you purchase, to make sure that we can accommodate your needs.

Book your tickets (subject to availability) [https://bookoxex.com/Go/MansfieldCollegeBall2022](https://bookoxex.com/Go/MansfieldCollegeBall2022)
Drop-in sessions will run every Thursday via Zoom. Alternatively, contact us via Facebook Messenger or email to arrange a time to chat.

Peer supporters are here to talk about anything that is concerning you. Peer supporters have over 30 hours of training with the University Counselling Service in order to listen effectively, maintain confidentiality, and respect boundaries.

**Mahati**
mahati.garimella@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

**Efa**
efa.bowen@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

**Mitch**
mitch.marshall@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

**Lumi**
lumi.westerlund@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

**Kate**
katerina.panesova@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

**Codie**
codie.wood@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

**Anabel**
anabel.riley@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

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**Peer Support outside of Mansfield:**

Feel free to contact one of the Teddy Hall JCR peer supporters

**Katie** (katie.long@seh.ox.ac.uk)

**Greg** (greg.halliwell@seh.ox.ac.uk)
Due to generous funding from a donor, we are able to reimburse the full cost of courses taken at the University Language Centre (https://www.lang.ox.ac.uk).

The language centre offers both modern languages courses and courses in academic English.

Please note that you may only claim reimbursement if you complete the course. Once you have finished the course, please fill out the following form: Language Course Reimbursement 2021-22 The form will close for Michaelmas Term on Monday 20 December. Awards will be paid to battels in Hilary Terms.
As term begins colleagues may find it helpful to revisit the University’s Guide for Supporting Disabled Students (https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/supporting-disabled-students#/)

Students can get in touch with their link Disability Advisor directly to arrange a meeting and confirm whether they would prefer to meet online or in-person at 3 Worcester Street. They’ll also find information on the DAS website to help make the most of an online DAS appointment. (https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability/contact)

The Michaelmas term Disability Professionals’ Forum will take place online on Monday 8th November from 10.00am-11.00am. Please complete this form to register your interest (https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=G96VzPWXk0-0uv5ouFLPkeZfX7m6MuxEiwll-1Ldrz1UQjVMRVJIOTEwMUxQNTExT1VYWFpRDODZESC4u&fsw=0)
Oxford University Counselling Service
Reducing Digital Distraction (ReDD) Workshops
with Ulrik Lyngs, Dept of Computer Science
Selection of dates/times in Michaelmas Term weeks 3, 5 and 6

During Covid, you may have become more dependent on your digital devices than ever before: to study, to socialise, and to connect to the outside world. Smartphones, computers and tablets are powerful tools, but can also be an endless source of distraction that undermine your capacity to focus and result in long stretches of unproductive and unrewarding time.

If so, it may be time to take back control. This workshop can help! You will be supported to: reflect on your current relationship with your digital devices; identify the role you want them to play in your life; and get support to make real, practical changes. This workshop is relevant for all students, undergraduates and graduates.

To check available dates/times, and to book: https://calendly.com/ulyngs/redd-workshop
Poetry workshops every Saturday, between 4pm and 6 pm in MB1, available to all members of the college.

Mansfield's writer in residence Kate Clanchy is also available on Zoom for Creative Writing drop in - any kind of Creative Work - every Thursday afternoon 2-6pm starting Thursday, the 14th of October. Make an appointment by email on k.s.clanchy@reading.ac.uk.
Meet the Junior Dean Team

**Main Site**
Oana Gurau – Welfare Junior Dean
oana.gurau@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) 07707130350

Yashua Bhatti – Welfare Junior Dean
yashua.bhatti@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) 07707130350

**Ablethorpe/Rhodes Wolfson**
Ben Wilkinson-Turnbull – Residential Junior Dean
ben.wilkinson-turnbull@ell.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (11pm-7am) 07741071156

Juan Alvarez Velasquez – Residential Junior Dean
juan.alvarezvelasquez@physics.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (11pm-7am) 07741071156

**Cowley Road Houses**
Darshini Nadarajan – Welfare Junior Dean
darshini.nadarajan@education.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) 07453370008

Zelimhan Akhmiev – Welfare Junior Dean
zelimhan.akhmiev@linacre.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) 07453370008
Equality Allies

(AActing) Tutor for Women
Elizabeth Drummond can be approached by students with concerns or issues they feel would best be communicated to a woman tutor.
elizabeth.drummond@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

LGBTQ+ Tutor
Ros Ballaster may be contacted by email and can meet by phone or by Microsoft Teams
ros.ballaster@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Tutor for Racial Inclusion
Helen Mountfield co-organises the termly forum for Amplifying Voices of Students of Colour and can be contacted by email on principal@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Tutor for Disabilities
Andrew Higgins deals with disability related welfare issues. andrew.higgins@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Royal Literary Fund Fellow: Jon Stock
provides academic writing support for all students, undergraduate or postgraduate. One to one sessions are for 50 minutes and take place online.

To book a slot, email jon.stock@rlfeducation.org.uk.

Academic Support Tutor: Gail Leckie
offers one to one study skills support for any undergraduate of any subject, to discuss any concerns you have about your academic work broadly construed.

Email: gail.leckie@mansfield.ox.ac.uk for an appointment.
Where can I get support?

Medical Professionals
if you need immediate medical attention CALL 999

University Support
UniversityCounselling Service Email
counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk for an appointment.

NHS 111
If you have an urgent medical problem and you’re not sure what to do, dial 111 and they can put you in touch with an out-of-hours GP or mental health nurse.

College GP
St Clements Surgery,
39 Temple Street,
OX4 1JS
tel: 01865 248 550

Tutor for Welfare:
Gail Leckie
gail.leckie@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Chaplain:
Stephen Hearn
chaplain@mansfield.ox.ac.uk