

# OAs LIVING AND WORKING IN LOCKDOWN



## Bernard Hornung (E75), Shaftesbury

### **Bernard, tell us about your memories of SHAC.**

I have very happy memories of my time at Ampleforth, which was eclipsed by three outstanding monks: Dom Basil Hume as Abbot; Dom Patrick Barry as Headmaster and Dom Edward Corbould as Housemaster. I still keep in touch with Fr Edward. Whether it was in the classroom, in the carpentry shop, beagling, in Fr Edward's garden, maintaining Gilling Castle golf course, or shooting on the range, every day was a happy one. Being together with my two brothers, Michael (E77) and Charles (E79), in the same house helped.

### **Tell us what you have done since leaving the Valley.**

It is 50 years since I first went to Ampleforth, arriving on a very cold and snowy January night in 1971. I left as Head of House and Captain of Shooting, Second Whip to the Ampleforth Beagles, and an Under Officer in the CCF, with an enthusiasm for gardening and carpentry. I captained the Ampleforth Shooting VIII at Bisley in July 1975, and within two months I was back at Pirbright Camp having enlisted into The Irish Guards to attend Brigade Squad, prior to going to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst the following January. Tracy my wife and I have recently moved to Shaftesbury, having sold up and left London last year. I think that in the last 40 years we have moved house more than 20 times, and this has included living in Germany, Spain, Portugal, and throughout Southern England.

### **What are you currently working on?**

I pivoted into my current role with Coltraco Ultrasonics last May, two months after we went into lockdown for the first time. I studied History at A level, and I was interested in Economic and Social History, and in particular the period which included the Agrarian Revolution, The Industrial Revolution and the early 20th Century. More recently I was involved in supporting the successful fundraising programme for a Portuguese First World War Memorial. This led me towards researching the disproportionate suffering endured by the Portuguese during this conflict, and afterwards as a result of the Spanish flu. At Ampleforth I had learnt about how during the 19th Century there was a belief that a bad smell could spread disease, and so in London, sewers were directed into the Thames, contaminating the water. This move ended up killing far more people as cholera spreads via contaminated food and water. We have made similar mistakes with measles and tuberculosis, which are aerosol infections, which we thought for decades were spread by droplets. More recently, we have done the same with severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the culprit behind the Covid-19 pandemic. It was only recently that the WHO and CDC finally accepted aerosols as one of the main modes of transmission of Covid-19, on 30 April and on 7 May 2021 respectively. In the UK we accepted this last June.

### **How have you found your work/life balance during the pandemic?**

At the moment there is no life/work balance as we are in the middle of a crisis, and we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to recover from this pandemic, and to fundamentally change the way in which we do things, by moving away from a linear economy based purely on consumption, towards a circular economy, and to explore effective solutions to pressing social issues. The Climate Crisis and the loss of Bio Diversity are global challenges, which we must address with urgency.

### **How have you coped with lockdown?**

I am at my best when placed under extreme pressure and so this pandemic and its lockdowns have really helped me to remain positive, as I feel that I am fully engaged with my work and my reward is being valued. I guess that many others will have had a similar experience, certainly in this country where there is such a tremendous sense of community. My faith, my shared values, my family and my colleagues at work, have enabled me to want to do more each day, and working from home has brought me closer to Tracy. We miss our immediate family, our children and grandchildren, who live in Italy and in Spain. We plan to see them soon, and I am now able to see my mother more frequently, and I hope to see my brothers and sisters again this year. Separation from the family has been hard.

### **What does the Ampleforth family mean to you?**

I was commissioned into The Irish Guards in August 1976, aged just 19, and posted to Germany, but I actually joined the Battalion in Canada. The Commanding Officer was an Old Amplefordian, as were many of the other officers, and this really helped me. Since leaving the Army 30 years ago I have met and worked with many Old Amplefordians, and the Ampleforth family is important to me. Our son Alexander (E02) was educated at Ampleforth, as were both my nephews, Anthony (EW11) and George (EW14).