

## OUR HONOURED GUEST - LEW SCHNURR

Lew Schnurr is an American-born British Academic. He spent his career in Chelmsford at what was at first an establishment in the UK public sector of Higher Education (Mid-Essex Technical College and School of Art) and which subsequently evolved into the University infrastructure we know today. He continues to hold the post of Professor Emeritus at Anglia Ruskin University.

Lew's early years were spent in Colorado, where he attended primary school in a 2-room schoolhouse at 8500 feet elevation and used snowshoes to navigate from home to classes; his family then moved to the Eastern foothills where he attended Secondary school and spent his undergraduate years both with the Forces full-time and with industry at Cape Canaveral and then with local radio which helped fund his studies at Colorado State University. He graduated with a BSEE which included the additional minor specialties of Mechanical Engineering and Psychology. He was extensively involved with the US Air Force, joining as an air cadet at the age of 12; he finally obtained an Honourable Discharge upon his emigration to the UK in 1962.

Following his graduation Lew took an industrial research post in a local US company and his work attracted interests in Europe; he was hired by Standard Telephones and Cables with a research post which included post-graduate study at the University of London. Following an initial period of 3 years Lew secured employment as a Lecturer at Mid-Essex Tech; this provided not only the opportunity to consolidate his knowledge but also to continue research.

Lew has been responsible for a number of projects in telecommunications, the most notable of which might be that of the mobile telephone; he was named by the Department of Education Burnham Committee as a Professor when he obtained an endowed post with Mitel Telecommunications.

Since the early 1980s Lew was active in working with the Government during the closure of the General Post Office telecommunications sector and worked at Cabinet level with the creation of British Telecommunications and Oftel. This work led to his appointment as a member of the European Commission group re-configuring EU telecommunications resources and the formation of the European Telecommunications Standard Institute (ETSI). He continued during this period lecturing and publishing and undertook a number of practical projects ranging from mobile network management in Kuwait to emergency telecoms network studies in Alaska; he was associated with the UN in various roles of the International Telecommunications Union and advised the World Telecomms Council President during the 1980s. Lew was seconded to New York Law School, where he taught for one term a year the subject of International Telecommunications Law from 1984 to 2004.

Following his full-time teaching activities Lew has been active in Local Government in the Maldon District and among other initiatives was responsible for establishing a new Parish and associated administration for Heybridge Basin, where he makes his home and has lived since the mid 1970s.