

## Professor Eric R Bryan OBE FREng, FIStructE (1927-2025)



Professor Eric R Bryan was educated at Tiffin Boys' School followed by an evacuation during the 2nd World War. In 1943 he re-entered Tiffin Boys' School into the 6th form followed by Queen Mary College (evacuated to King's College, Cambridge). Having married and moved to Sandiway where he worked for ICI, he then assumed a senior position at Manchester University where he was in charge of the structures labs. This was followed by his Professorship at Salford University, where he spent the remainder of his working life.

Eric had a number of particularly high-flying research students, including - amongst others - Prof. Mark Lawson, Prof. Pierre Engel (at ArcelorMittal), and Dr Francis Zadan.

Eric passed away on 14 February 2025 at the age of 97. He leaves two sons, Roger and Julian, and a daughter Lydia - all professional musicians.

The funeral will be held on Friday 7th March at 11.30am at St Mary's Parish Church, Bowdon, Altrincham, followed by a reception in the Parish Centre.

Anyone wishing to get in touch, please contact: [julianbryan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julianbryan@hotmail.co.uk)

## Tributes

“My friend and colleague for over 50 years, Professor Eric R Bryan FREng, FIStructE, passed away at the weekend after a short illness at the age of 97. He was long retired after being Professor of Structural Engineering at the University of Salford for much of his academic life.”

**Professor J Michael Davies FREng, FICE, FIStructE, DSc etc**

“Professor Eric Bryan was as wonderful a person as you could rarely meet in your life. He was a scientist but also a model of human kindness in his relationship with others.”

**Professor Pierre Engel**

“Words cannot describe the magnitude of the man, but here are a few words that describe how I regarded him:

I had the privilege of working as a research assistant under Professor Eric Bryan for a few years, which led to my PhD. Professor Bryan possessed many admirable qualities. I will mention only two for the sake of brevity. Firstly, as an Engineer, he had a remarkable talent for simplifying complex issues. This ability was instrumental in his pioneering work on stressed skin design in steel structures. Alongside a few colleagues in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Salford, Professor Bryan played a pivotal role in the department being recognised as a Centre of Excellence in steel structures by both academia and industry. His contributions were acknowledged not only in the UK but also earned him high regard throughout Europe, particularly for his influence in drafting the European Code of Practice in Cold-Formed Steel Structures. Secondly, and of greater importance, he was an exceptional human being, cherished by all who knew him. The world would undoubtedly be a better place if there were more individuals like him.”

**Dr Francis Zadan DIC, MSc, PhD**