



## **Brian Williamson**

**I would like to take a few moments to remember Dr Brian Williamson who died earlier this year age 85. He was one of the last of the first generation of contact scientists and we shall miss his vital presence at these Holm and the International Contact Conferences. He attended every International Contact Conference beginning in 1961 and was the UK representative and first Chairman and then secretary of that conference's International Advisory Committee**

**He contributed a number of seminal papers on contact science. One still often cited paper co-authored with Dr Jim Greenwood "Contact of Nominally Flat Surfaces" was published nearly 60 years ago in the Proceedings of the Royal Society. Brian, however, extended his talents on surface physics beyond electrical contacts. His paper "The Significance of Metallic Transfer in Orthopedic Surgery", resulted in understanding why SS hip replacements were failing prematurely. The minute particles left on the surface of the SS by the carbon steel scalpels caused the SS to corrode and deteriorate. Surgeons worldwide began to use SS scalpels and the problem went away.**

**His contributions have been well recognized. He was a Holm Awardee, an Armington Awardee, he received the Albert Keil Pries from the German Contact community and the Jaquard medal from the French Institute of Electrical Engineers. He is also recognized as one of the fathers of electrical contact science in China for his work there beginning in 1980.**

**Brian was an amazing lecturer as those of you who had the experience of attending the Intensive Course on Electrical Contacts when he was its Director in the 1980's and 1990's can attest to.**

**Brian also had a full life outside electrical contacts. He was a musician and a composer. He was an ordained priest for the Church of England and in his many travels took services in many unusual places in the world including a journey he took following the Great Silk Road. He took great pleasure in travel and he would often regale us with his many adventures in a way that was always amusing and insightful.**

**Many of us here today have regarded him as a friend as well as a valued colleague and we shall miss him. Please stand for one minute silence in his memory.**

**P.G. Slade**

**From the 61st IEEE Holm Conference on Electrical Contacts**