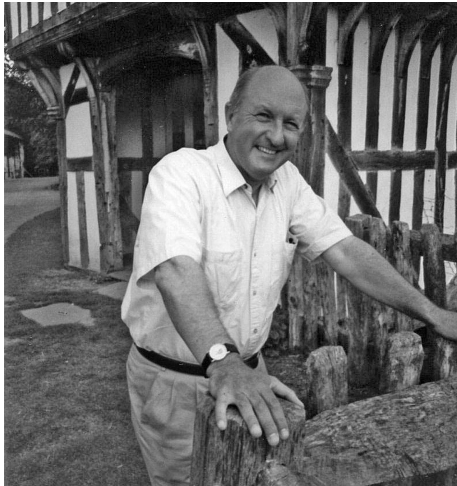


John Bailey 1936–2008

*John Malcolm Bailey, authority on timber framed buildings;
Born Colindale, North London, 1 May 1936;
Married Beryl: two daughters, Jennifer & Susan;
Married (secondly) Susan (marriage dissolved);
Died Cheltenham, 10 January 2008.*



John Bailey, who was by profession a structural engineer, pursued an interest in archaeology and, in particular, timber-framed buildings. The archaeological part of his life is discussed elsewhere in this volume together with an article by him entitled ‘The Development of Carpentry in Bedfordshire, 1200–1550’.

The only child of an officer in the Metropolitan Police CID, John went to school and college in Hendon, Middlesex. He was evacuated to the West Country during the war, and did National Service in the RAF, including a spell in Aden.

John worked as a structural engineer for the firm of Matthew Hall, of which he became a director. He was involved with big projects such as shopping centres and supermarkets, sometimes travelling to Europe and South America. John was a meticulous draughtsman of the old school. He continued with the company after it was taken over by AMEC, but with the advent of computer-aided design, that part of his career came to an end, and he was made redundant. He later worked for Oscar Faber in St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Hilson Moran in Farnborough, Hampshire, and was in demand as an expert witness in court cases arising from disputes over the fulfilment of building contracts.

In his younger days, John was a keen racing cyclist, and a member of the Icknield Road Club. He named each of the three cats he owned, successively, Morris Austin. He lived at various times in Dunstable, Markyate and Eaton Bray, in Bedfordshire, before moving to the Cotswolds, where he first lived in Stow-on-the-Wold before buying a house and moving to Moreton-in-Marsh. In July 2007 his home was flooded, and it is feared that many of his architectural and archaeological drawings and plans were lost. John died suddenly in January 2008 of an embolism, following a prostate operation, and was buried in the cemetery at Stow-on-the-Wold, close to the Fosse Way.

John had Asperger’s Syndrome, and, like many others with this condition, on which he occasionally gave talks, exhibited an intense interest in a very specialised area of study. Some people found John difficult to get on with, especially on first acquaintance, but to those who persevered he was a very good friend, and always willing to share his knowledge and enthusiasms.

RICHARD WILDMAN and ALAN CRAWLEY (condensed and amended, with permission, from their obituary published in *The Independent*, 4th February 2008).

Angie Simco 1952–2008

Angela Heather Simco, who died of cancer on 29 December 2008 at the age of 56, grew up with and made her distinctive contribution to the modern archaeological profession. A member of the Institute for Archaeologists from 1984, she was a familiar figure at annual conferences.

The youngest daughter of an airline pilot, Angie was brought up in the Bedfordshire village of Clapham, notable for its prominent Saxo-Norman church tower which she was later to record during conservation repairs and in whose churchyard she is buried. Her interest in archaeology stemmed from membership of a group of able and highly motivated local sixth-formers who were the core volunteers in training excavations at Elstow Abbey and rescue excavations at Bedford Castle in the late 1960s.

After graduating from the London Institute of Archaeology in 1973, Angie joined what was to become the Conservation and Archaeology Section in Bedfordshire County Planning Department. Initially involved with rescue threats, she excavated a Roman villa farmstead site at Newnham east of Bedford, but the main thrust of her public service career was curatorial. She guided the fledgling Sites and Monuments Record with characteristic thoroughness and the serious sleuthing skills required to order the inherited historiography of major heritage assets. Her definitive publication on *The Roman Period in Bedfordshire* showed what a well-stocked SMR could support; it includes a characteristically irrefutable deconstruction of inflated visions about unsubstantiated Roman roads. Perhaps her most important contribution was to the care and repair of Bedfordshire's historic bridges; she devised a methodology in the best traditions of what we now know as 'informed

conservation', firmly but tactfully guiding sometimes over-enthusiastic highway engineers. Her book, with Peter McKeague, on *Bedfordshire's Historic Bridges*, explaining the method and the bridges, is a standard work.

After leaving Bedfordshire County Council in 1992 for a greater involvement in the work of her local church, she set up her own sole-trader consultancy in Archaeological Heritage Management. This allowed her to follow her main interests, describing herself on her well-presented web-site, as "a landscape archaeologist at heart ... with a particular interest in researching the development of the historic landscape". Several woodlands surveys in south and east Midlands counties married documentary research and field survey. For the Monuments Protection Programme she prepared documentation on the Clay Industries, much admired as a model of its kind. She undertook assessments of landscape character and archaeological resources for her former employers, together with Historic Environment Record projects for data enhancement and systems migration. There were two episodes acting as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments in English Heritage's East Midlands Region, and continued consultancy advice on the repair of accident damage to Bedfordshire's historic bridges.

A reserved personality preferring to keep her powder dry until the problem at hand had been fully scoped, but then expounding the way forward with meticulous clarity, Angie exemplified many of the best qualities of archaeological professionalism. She is a sad loss to her friends and colleagues.

David Baker