

OBITUARY – PHILIP LESLIE JOHN PLATT – 1948 - 2016

It is with great regret and sadness that we report the passing of Philip Platt, who passed away in the early hours of Thursday 8th December 2016 whilst in Torbay hospital. Phil had fought a short but, courageous battle with cancer. His wife Diane and his brother David were by his side.

Phil had railway blood in the family and so developed first, an interest from an early age in train spotting and later, for public transport, and buses in particular. Whilst making trips with his mother from their home in Exeter into the City, sometimes on a red bus and sometimes a green one, it was not long before he was able to distinguish the various characteristics of each, not only by the colour scheme but by the varying makes that were in operation at the time, from Leyland, AEC, Daimler and Guy etc.

After leaving school, Philip joined Devon County Council and, with a few like-minded friends, quickly formed themselves into a group who would meet and share their interest in the local bus fleets and in particular The Devon General Omnibus & Touring Co. Phil would develop a special interest in the AEC vehicles operated by DGO&TC and this fascination with the AEC brand stayed with him all his life.

As privatisation of bus services nationally approached, Phil anticipated the loss of the Devon General name, leading him with others to form the Devon General Society to try and maintain the special relationship the bus company had in the memories of the people of Devon.

Phil's enthusiasm for all things Devon General and AEC did not wane over the many decades since. He held positions with The West Country Historic Omnibus and Transport Trust (WHOTT) and latterly as a trustee of The Devon General Omnibus Trust.

Other vehicle owners have benefitted from Phil's vast knowledge and contacts within the preservation movement, and he has been instrumental in the salvation and further preservation of many vehicles that are still enjoyed today, as well as being author or contributor to many publications that exist today.

As a well know preservationist Philip's loss will be mourned by many. As a man of his word, and a willing fount of knowledge to all, we will not come across his like, easily again.

Condolences are extended to his widow Diane, his brother, and, two daughters Gillian and Alison.