



Information about 1 - JOW 499E

New to: Southampton City Transport

Built in: 1967

Registration No.: JOW 499E

Fleet No.: 1

Chassis: AEC SWIFT MP2R

Bodywork: Strachans Pacemaster B47D +19

Engine: AEC AH505 8.189 Litres

Body No.: 40214 **Chassis No.:** MP2R010

- This bus was ordered to find a suitable replacement for the 12 ageing Guy Arab UF 'Standee' single deckers placed into service in the 1950's.
- AEC Swift No.1 entered service from 1st May 1967, in a new livery in which pale cream was the dominant colour. It was followed on 1st March 1968 by five similar vehicles (Nos. 2 - MTR 420F to 6 - MTR 424F) all built locally by Strachans at Hamble near Southampton. Unlike the others No.1 always kept its red roof, even after repaints.
- A further four AEC Swifts (Nos. 7 - TCR 293H to 10 - TCR 296H) this time with East Lancashire bodies, came into service on 1st November 1969. All the AEC Swifts were withdrawn by April 1980.
- Swift No.1 was sold to Booths, a Dealer in Rotherham in September 1977. In March 1978 it went to 131/134 (Battersea) Cadet Squadron, Royal Tank Regiment, London, and to 157 (Sutton) Cadet Attachment, Royal Artillery, North Cheam in 1980. It was withdrawn by them in August 1982.
- It was sold to members of Solent Transport Trust (STT) now the Southampton & District Transport Heritage Trust (S&DTHT) for preservation in October 1986. The STT collected the bus from Ashford Army Base on a cold November day in 1986 and towed it back to Bishops Waltham behind Priory Coaches Leyland Redline wrecker which was considerably smaller than the bus. The only glass left in her was the offside windscreen and the internal glass panels by the centre doors. Everything else including lights had gone.
- Between 1986 and 1992, it was used within the STT and appeared at rallies and events. The bus ownership was transferred to the Trust in the year 2000. After 20 years off the road an MOT Certificate was finally awarded on the 29th August 2012.
- Since returning to the road, No. 1 has worked hard for the Trust at various tasks and is a very interesting and rare vehicle.