



NORSK
Land

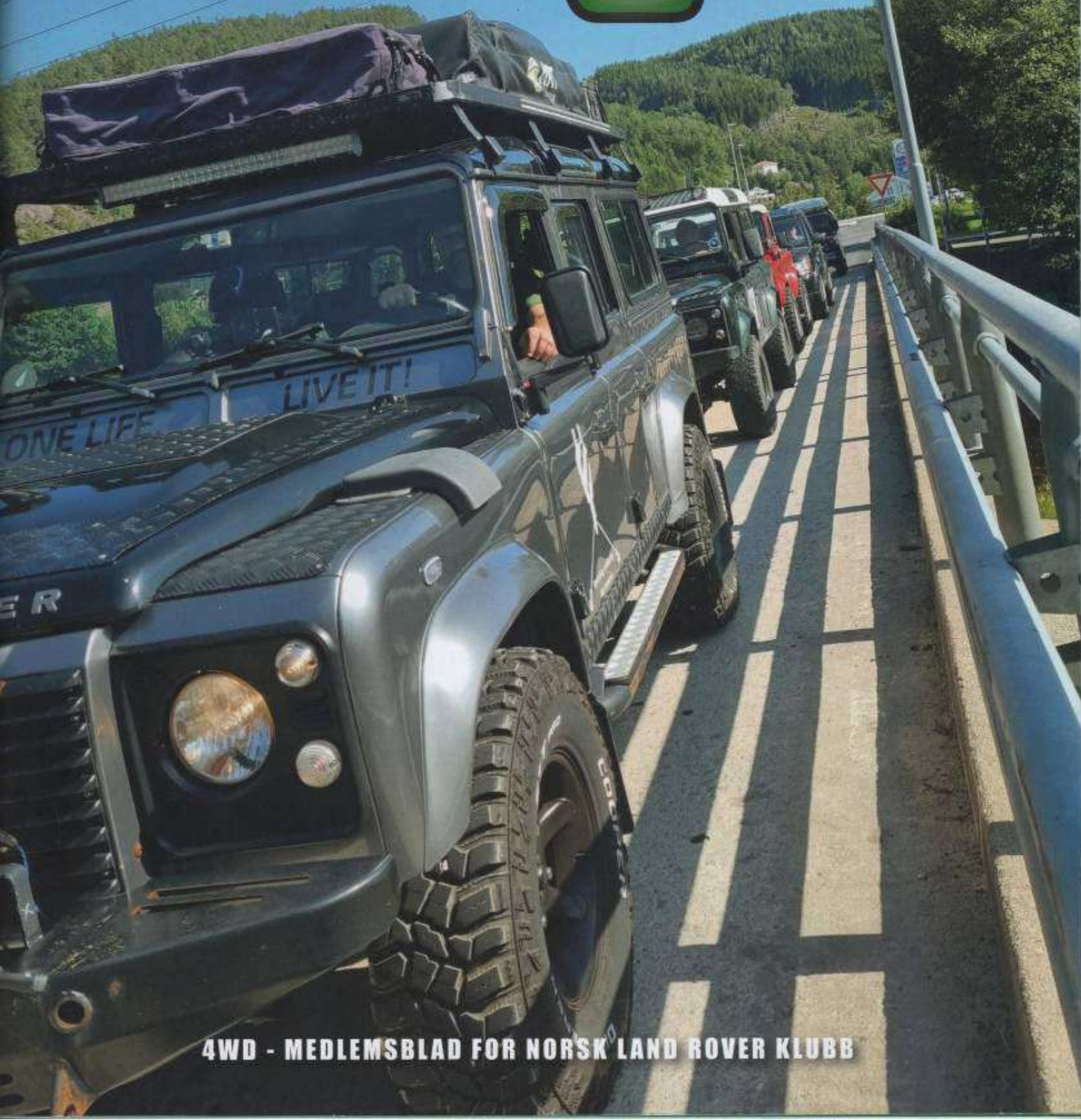


Rover KLUBB

Stiftet 1975

4WD

Nr. 3 - 2023



4WD - MEDLEMSBLAD FOR NORSK LAND ROVER KLUBB



A New Land Rover Museum – The Dunsfold Collection.

Words & Pictures by Andrew Cross

Many Land Rover enthusiasts will know the name Dunsfold, but here is a bit of background information and how it fits into the story and history of Land Rover.

Dunsfold is just a small village in the county of Surrey in the South East of England. There are many similar small villages across the UK but Dunsfold has become special to us and well known because of one man. It was here that in 1968 the late Brian Bashall started a small country garage and because of his interest in the vehicles from Solihull that it became known as Dunsfold Land Rovers. This would later change to simply DLR. During the 1960's there was not much interest in the heritage or history of old Land Rovers but despite

this Brian started collecting rare and unusual versions of the Land Rover. This was sometimes done with inside help from some of the few people at the Rover company who did feel there was a need to save some of these vehicles which might otherwise have been broken up for scrap.

In due course Brian's son Philip worked alongside him eventually taking over the business after Brian's death. Philip was equally, or maybe even more, enthusiastic about saving these special Land Rovers and he soon became a well respected expert on the subject and was always willing to share his knowledge on both the historical and technical aspects of Land Rovers with other enthusiasts.

DLR became one of the first and best places to call for Land Rover repairs or for the supply of spare parts, particularly for Series One's, military vehicles or other unusual Land Rovers.

All this time the vehicle collection continued to grow but storage problems meant that they were tucked away in various different locations around the area. Because of this it was not easy to view these vehicles so a few Dunsfold Open Weekends were held and these became very popular attracting many visitors, but it was a lot of work to get all the Land Rovers out of storage, clean them and get them together lined up in a nearby field.



Throughout these years Philip always had the wish that all these special vehicles together with a huge archive of drawings, models, books, badges and advertising material should be safeguarded for the future. A major step towards this was in 2014 when the Dunsfold Collection became protected by becoming a registered charity, looked after by a board of trustees consisting of Philip Bashall, Richard Bedall and Gary Pusey. By this time there had also been formed a group called the "Friends of Dunsfold Collection" who paid a subscription fee to support the collection and received a newsletter keeping them up to date with the progress of the charity.

More recently, around 2020, Philip Bashall felt the time was right to close DLR as a working garage and parts supplier to devote his time to developing his dream of securing the future of the collection for the benefit of all enthusiasts.

Of course the closure of DLR was a sad time for all the customers from around the world who had used its services for so many years but what was to follow would be exciting to land Rover enthusiasts.

With the help and support of a number of people Philip transformed the garage buildings into a permanent fantastic

Land Rover Museum. After a couple of years of hard work there was, on Sunday 11th June, a grand official opening. This was for specially invited guests who had either worked on the project or supported it by subscribing to the Friends of Dunsfold Collection. This nice sunny summer day saw about 120 enthusiasts gather for their first viewing of the new museum. I was pleased to have been able to be there on that day and along with all those who attended was amazed and delighted to see the transformation from oily workshop to clean bright museum full of all sorts of Land Rover history. About 25 vehicle were fitted into the building together with many display



cabinets around the walls containing all sorts of interesting items. Looking at this large display we must remember that there are still another 100 special Land Rovers in store at other places. The plan is to change the vehicles around so that different Land Rovers can be on display at different times.

As well as the vehicles within the collection it was also interesting to see on this opening day the variety of Land Rovers which the guests had arrived in.

Understandably the museum does not have the resources to open on a daily basis but they are happy to welcome

groups for a tour but this must be booked in advance. I am sure this will be popular particularly with members of clubs.

Although the official opening was a great occasion the collection will continue to need our support to keep up the good work they do preserving all the historic Land Rovers and the archives.

For more information about the Dunsfold Collection and its Museum or to make a donation or join the Friends of Dunsfold Collection see www.dunsfoldcollection.co.uk



ERIK WINTHER SØRENSEN IMPORT



Åpningstider:

Mandag, tirsdag og onsdag 1430-1700 torsdag 1430-1900

Tlf. 32 85 05 40 E-post: wint-imp@online.no

www.wint-imp.no

ERIK WINTHER-SØRENSEN IMPORT

Drammensveien 291, 3420 Lierskogen, Avkjøring 21 på E18 fra Oslo
Postboks 83, N-1371 Asker

