

Lament for the Land Rover

FARMING
ICONS

The Land Rover Defender has now been out of production for almost a year and its future could well and truly be in the hands of Landy enthusiasts.



Hansomes, Sims and Jefferies had their own royal connections too.



LEFT A Series 1 80 inch 1950 Land Rover. Some say the design has remained almost unchanged right up until the final Defender, but in truth there have been many alterations.

The Landy was after all the vehicle favoured by those who know best, it was the vehicle that our nation's farmers, our rescue services and our military all trusted - even Her Royal Highness the Queen drove a Landy! Letting the traditional Landy go was a very sad day in British history if you ask me.

There have been some reports printed about the demise of the Land Rover Defender, with claims that this design has been around since 1947, well it clearly hasn't, there are many huge differences between the Series 1 Land Rover and the Defenders - the shape of the front end, the suspension system and the engine to name just a few. It has been claimed the only part that has remained the same throughout is the spigot bearing in the flywheel. Land Rovers have been constantly evolving since day one and with some foresight they could have evolved seamlessly into a newer version of the highly successful Defender.

Instead there has been an abrupt stop, with Land Rover saying that they will, after a certain period, produce a new model, which will be 'instantly recognised' by Land Rover drivers. Perhaps it will be like the new mini,

BELOW Series 1 Landies are instantly recognisable by the centrally positioned headlights.

The final Land Rover Defender left the assembly line on January 29, 2016. Although the Land Rover name continues, to those who saw Defenders and their older siblings the 'Series Landies' and the '90s' as the 'proper' Land Rovers, this truly felt like the end of an era. From now on some purists feel Land Rover's subsequent vehicles will be just like all the other 4x4s out there - shiny, complicated, all 'fur coat no knickers' Chelsea tractors, with a bit too much plastic present. Sadly, it seems we've lost that robust, no-nonsense, high quality but slightly quirky British icon forever.



The Land Rover has provided a wealth of memories for so many people; off-road enthusiasts, farmers, soldiers and even the Royal Family have all used these iconic vehicles