Cloverlands Model Car Museum (registered charity no 1198716).
Annual Report 2025

For the small team looking after Cloverlands Model Car Museum 2025 was a challenging year on a number of fronts, effectively a 'year in waiting' though with an overall prospect of an increase in longer-term progress.

The team had concluded the 2024 season building internal walls to divide a second room into two, in order to provide our hosts the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway (W&LLR – registered charity 1000378), with additional office accommodation and ourselves with valuable additional display space. This work had seen us postpone the second phase of our 'Cloverlands – From Collection to Museum' project, which would have seen a start made on reorganising the centre display area in the museum to create proper themes to better inform and entertain our visitors.

The year of 2025 started on a sad note with the unexpected passing of our trustee Max Tomlinson after a short illness. Max, who was married to our founder Gillian Rogers at the time of her passing in 2021, was one of our most active Trustees, playing a central role in both general stewarding of the museum and in our developments. His loss was keenly felt.

Following Max's passing his family expressed a wish that his own personal collection of models would find a new home in the museum, and requested that we assist with transferring them. The collection comprised more than a thousand models principally of Bugatti vehicles, all to a very high standard, and we were honoured to welcome them to Cloverlands. Cataloguing the models, mounting the display cabinets in our new room 2 and placing the models within them occupied our main task before the museum reopened to visitors in April.

At the end of 2025 we would be delighted to have the Tomlinson family maintain its long connection with Cloverlands when we welcomed Max's daughter Natasha Williams to the ranks of the Trustees. We also lost another Trustee in Bruce Lawson, former Chair and joint founder of the museum, who had decided to resign at the end of 2024 – Bruce was involved in other projects including as a book author and felt he could no longer devote time to the museum.

Cloverlands reopened for the 2025 season in an air of uncertainty, as we were well aware that at some point we would need to close for an extended period but we did not know when. At the end of 2024 our hosts the W&LLR had secured a grant of up to £410,000 from a Community Ownership Fund established by the previous Conservative Government, to carry out major refurbishment of its three-bay industrial unit, the first bay of which houses both Cloverlands and the railway's own Connections visitor centre.

This work would include replacing the life-expired roof and the cladding of all the exterior walls, followed by a second phase that would see interior refurbishment. The conditions of the grant required the exterior work to be completed by December 2025 in order to secure the funding, and while the exterior refurbishment was underway there could be no access to the building.

While the tendering and planning work was underway the date of work starting was not finalised, leaving the Cloverlands team effectively in limbo, not able to start any significant project within the museum. Eventually the work began at the start of September – informed at quite short notice the Cloverlands team had to quickly remove all of the cabinets and models of our founder's collection on the rear wall to ensure there was no damage from the work on the outside ,and we were then prevented from accessing what was a construction site.

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The work reached a position where the Cloverlands team could again access the museum at the end of November. Immediate improvements were obvious – the two museums now have a much more impressive entrance of a building that looks far more up-to-date on the outside, and among the interior enhancements is a fully-equipped kitchen for the use of staff.

However due to construction on phase two of the improvement project, the interior enhancement, Cloverlands would not be able to reopen to the public until the end of May 2025 – this mean that the museum effectively lost half a season's revenue. Better news in financial terms, however, was a final resolution of a long-running saga with our bank over the seemingly simple task of changing the charity's contact details from our previous Chair to our current one – a task that had begun early in 2024…

With the squeeze on finances the winter work up to the end of this reporting period principally concerned rehanging the cabinets removed from the rear wall and cleaning throughout the museum. The planned retheming of the centre of the museum has had to be postponed again, partly due to the projected costs of new display cabinets but principally because the interior enhancement will allow the railway to move its office space upstairs and Cloverlands to take over the space adjacent to our room 2.

As a result we have undertaken a major replanning of our development project to incorporate this extra space – this will include the placing of a remarkable collection of James Bond related vehicles and memorabilia which we were donated at the end of 2024 and which has been in storage ever since.

Right at the end of 2025 we were also contacted by solicitors dealing with the legacy of a collector that is set to result in another major collection coming to the museum along with a very significant financial donation which will provide the funding to enable serious planning for the oft-delayed retheming of the museum centre.

Cloverlands Model Car Museum — Year to 31 December 2025

(Reg. Charity 1198716)

Receipts and Expenditure Account

	£	£
Funds bought forward		2056.65
Receipts		
Donations	1766.25	
Bank interest	9.14	
Specific donations	688.00	
	2463.39	
Expenses		
Website	17.50	
Insurance	1147.25	
Bank charges	120.00	
	1284.75	
Excess of receipts over expenditure	1178.64	
Funds carried forward		2056.65
	3235.29	

Represented by:

West Bromwich Building Society	£1010.95
Unity Trust Bank	£2224.34

Notes: for Charity Commission	Annual Receipts	2463.39
	Annual Expenditure	1284.75



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Chair, Cloverlands
19th October 2026