

The Alvis Project



How the St. Michaels Concours, the Classic Motor Museum, and Coventry Motor Works have joined forces to help the newly formed CMM Student Chapter of the Bay Country Region chapter of the AACA, shift into gear.

New Years Day 2018 dawned bright but chilly in St. Michaels, as a number of intrepid classic car owners gathered once again to continue, what has become a tradition of motoring to the very end of Tilghman Island. Most returned to the Pinkett House at the Classic Motor Museum, where waiting was a potluck array of hot soup, chowders, and casseroles...and a warm fire. This was the setting for an introduction by Concours Chairman, Luke Phipps, to Coventry Motor Works of Easton, owned by Sandy and JoAnne Thomson, about getting involved with the Alvis Project.

A meeting was soon arranged between Classic Motor Museum (CMM) president, Tad Du Pont, Luke Phipps, the Alvis owner, and the Thomson family. There it was

discussed how the Student Chapter was about to be approved and recognized at the upcoming national convention of the Antique Automobile Club of America in Philadelphia. How the student chapter and the new museum Education Center would be the focal point of the CMM. And, how the 1938 Alvis would continue to serve as a catalyst to engage the students. Would Coventry Motor Works be interested in taking on the management and full restoration of the Alvis?

The whole prospect immediately had the interest of the Thomsons. They had long since been concerned with the encouragement of youth involvement in the classic car hobby. They also had three boys in college who had each, already completed ground up restorations on their own vintage British sports cars during high school. After much research and careful consideration, Coventry answered with an enthusiastic Yes!

Soon after collecting the Alvis and establishing for it, a new home in their shop, Coventry decided to host an impromptu gathering of students, museum staff, and Bay Country Region AACA members at their shop for a barbecue. What a great time! The event took meaning as the students, led by Alvis Project Manager Rob Thomson, logged an inventory of parts. Boxes were opened, parts documented, and a plan for moving forward was adopted. Coventry projects a two-year timetable for the restoration. In that time, numerous workshops, tours, and fun events are planned for the student chapter.

The success of the St. Michaels Concours and the Classic Motor Museum, relies on the countless volunteer hours of many people with various skill, expertise and resources. The future success of the Student Chapter is no different. The concours Executive Committee is pleased to once again, make the Classic Motor Museum the beneficiary of this years' show. Coventry Motor Works is proud, not only to be a sponsor, but to be honored with the restoration of the Alvis, knowing that it can offer the Student Chapter firsthand experience in automotive education in a healthy, safe environment.

Wishing the 2018 St. Michaels Concours d'Elegance great success!

Sandy Thomson

Sandy Thomson serves on the St. Michaels Concours Executive Committee and is also the owner of Coventry Motor Works. He lives in Trappe, Talbot Co., M.D., with his wife Jo Anne, and three sons Rob, Jonathan, and Scott.