

Strictly ELVIS UK



ELVIS
TRAVEL SERVICE

Newsletter No. 26

Summer 2021

Good Morning,

As I write this the country is starting to smile again – to open up following the ravages and disruption of the Covid pandemic. It may be not over quite yet – not completely – but with the current low rate of infections and high number of vaccinations I think we've now got the measure of this virus and we can put things back into perspective in the knowledge that we're now in less danger from Covid than many other ailments.

The disruption tho' has been tough – but we've learnt from it. The world had been turned upside down for many – the way (and where?) we work, how we shop or be entertained, few, if any, sports allowed, pubs and gyms closed and even restrictions on how far we can travel...both in the UK and overseas. What all this has shown us tho' is just how important we are to each other. Families couldn't meet up – something that affected the elderly in particular – friends couldn't get together, weddings, christenings, birthday parties and events were cancelled because of the restrictions on numbers and we've missed that. No, we've REALLY missed that!



*Wonderful Memories – Joan Deary,
Elizabeth Hill and Janelle McComb*

What was it Elvis sang, "Memories – pressed between the pages of my mind"? And to me, memories without people are merely thoughts – it's people that make memories special and I don't know about you but being with other people is what I've missed most. My family and local friends, all my business connections, the staff at Vauxhall, the hoteliers, coach drivers and others who we regularly work with on tour, the Elvis Guests with whom we have built up such wonderful relationships over the years, and, especially, all of you - our 'Elvis family' who we so enjoy being with at events in the UK or on tours overseas. True, Carol has tried to keep me sane, as has Neil,

but it's been tough and I can't wait for us to get together again.

The first event, our annual Elvis Charity Cruise on the Thames, arranged in association with Elvis in Essex, will be on Sunday 18th July and I hope you can join us for that...the raising of Tower Bridge just for us (and Elvis!) will feel even more significant this year. Then we have our tours to the USA and to Germany in August before the main event of the year – the ELVIS FESTIVAL in sunny September. If you've never attended (or not for many years – in which case you'd find the difference amazing!) then come and join us. With great bands and some wonderful guests including the lovely Linda Thompson, you can be sure that this will be what memories are truly made of. And I'll bet you could do with a holiday!

Speaking of which, enclosed with this Newsletter you'll find brochures for our Thanksgiving Tour to Memphis, Tupelo and Florida this coming November, our Spring 2022 tour to Memphis, Tupelo and New Orleans, our UK Early Summer 2022 Weekend Break in Bournemouth and our August 2022 45th Anniversary Tour to Memphis, Tupelo, Las Vegas, Palm Springs and Hollywood. And we also have Advance Details of our next Hawaii tour for Spring 2023. I do hope that we'll have the pleasure of your company on one (or more) of these wonderful trips. Let's make some more memories!

I'm proud to say that Strictly Elvis UK has been there for you throughout, trying to keep everyone's spirits up (including our own!) and planning lots of events and tours for the future. For the fans – by the fans...and all for Elvis.

Finally, may I say a HUGE 'thank you' for the incredible work of our NHS staff and all carers, to the medical teams and volunteer staff of the vaccination centres, as well as all of the Key Workers who have kept us fed, safe and the country running. You have been magnificent in helping us get back to normal. Or whatever the 'new normal' will be.

T
Cheers for now
B

David J. Wade

DIARY UPDATE

2021

Find us on...



**The Elvis Presley Travel
Service/Strictly Elvis**



@ElvisTravel



@StrictlyElvis

News moves pretty quickly and whilst we'll always update you via our newsletters, if you're on Facebook head over to our page and give it a 'Like' by clicking the big blue thumb and being part of our friendly Elvis on-line family you'll get to see all of our latest news, photos, videos and even the odd free prize giveaway as soon as we post it.

FOR FANS, BY FANS

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Strictly Elvis UK is the Newsletter of Strictly Elvis UK and the Elvis Travel Service – trading names of David Wade Ltd, an organisation that has led the way in Elvis holidays and events since being founded by lifelong Elvis fan David Wade in 1972. This professional organisation is registered with Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc and works closely with them to promote Graceland, the Guest House at Graceland, Graceland's Chapel in the Woods and Elvis' legacy. The names 'Elvis', 'Elvis Presley', 'Graceland' and 'The Guest House at Graceland' are registered to Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc with the USPTO.

ELVIS THAMES CRUISE

18th July 2021

Arranged in conjunction with Elvis in Essex, this 4-hour Charity Cruise aboard the MV Dixie Queen – the largest passenger boat on the Thames - features an all-Elvis Disco with DJ Mark Monaghan plus live entertainment from Rockin' Dave Riley. Great music, the chance of a dance and the opportunity to catch up with old friends as we glide along this famous river. Tickets are £27.50 from Strictly Elvis UK on 01473 621 564

ELVIS 44th ANNIVERSARY TOUR TO THE USA

8th-23rd August 2021

This glorious tour features the Elvis and main tourist sights of three of the USA's greatest cities – New York, Memphis (for Elvis Week) and Nashville plus visits to Tupelo, Dollywood, Jack Daniels and more. With your flights, first class hotels, coach travel and sightseeing tours included this is a great value dream tour for all Elvis fans. Full details call us on 01473 621564.

EUROPEAN ELVIS FESTIVAL IN BAD NAUHEIM

12th-16th August 2021

Join us for a lovely long weekend in the beautiful spa town of Bad Nauheim in Germany where Elvis lived during his tour of duty with the US Army. As well as us showing you all of the Elvis sights there you'll have time to join in the fun of the European Elvis Festival arranged by the Elvis Fan Club of Germany together with the local Tourist Office...concerts, classic car and Harley parades, Elvis movies, stalls, attractions and special guests. Call us on 01473 621564 for further details.

ELVIS COMEBACK FESTIVAL VAUXHALL HOLIDAY PARK, GREAT YARMOUTH

10th-17th September 2021

This is **THE BIG ONE** and if you do nothing else in 2021 just make sure that you

join us for this amazing event. It's a week-long celebration of Elvis with great bands including the amazing Showaddywaddy, and star guests including the lovely Linda Thompson, Elvis' bodyguard Sam Thompson and Elvis Collector-Expert Jon Daly as well as the chance to win a trip to Graceland, you can bet your boots that this'll be the place to be. Further details on the back page of this Newsletter.

ELVIS THANKSGIVING TOUR MEMPHIS & TUPELO

22nd-28th November 2021

Memphis, Tupelo

Plus 'Follow That Dream'

22nd November-4th December 2021

Continuing the success of our short breaks to Memphis & Tupelo we've combined this one with the US Thanksgiving Holiday and the Christmas lights at Graceland. And to make it extra special we're inviting you to follow in Elvis' footsteps as we visit the filming location sights of the movie 'Follow That Dream' in sunny Florida.

2022

BAD NAUHEIM AND G I BLUES TOUR 24th-28th March 2022

Come and stay in the Grunewald Hotel in Bad Nauheim where Elvis lived for much of his time whilst stationed at Ray Barracks in nearby Friedberg. The Elvis Travel Service have taken the whole hotel for this unique 'house party' and we'll show you all the Elvis sights of this beautiful spa town, you'll be able to explore Friedberg and we'll have a full day's tour visiting historic Idstein, Wiesbaden and Rudesheim which were used as the backdrop for the movie G I Blues. For more information call us on 01473 621 564.



ELVIS SPRING BREAK USA MEMPHIS & TUPELO LUXURY BREAK

26th April-2nd May 2022

**Memphis, Tupelo, Fort Chaffee,
Shreveport and New Orleans**

26th April-8th May 2022

Take a great value luxury break to Graceland and see all the Elvis sights in both Memphis and Tupelo or have all of that PLUS a wonderful 'King Creole' Extension tour featuring Fort Chaffee (Elvis' famous Army Buzzcut), Shreveport (Louisiana Hayride from the Municipal Auditorium) and New Orleans (to see the movie location sites of King Creole).

ELVIS EARLY SUMMER BREAK UK 3rd to 6th June 2022

Join us at the 4 Star Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth for a wonderful weekend of Elvis at this lovely hotel. With entertainment from Gregg G's Undaunted, Rockin' Dave Riley and DJ Mark Monaghan and a great stay in this premier resort you are bound to have a great time.

ELVIS 45th ANNIVERSARY - The Elvis Aficionados Tour!

10th-17th August 2022

(Memphis & Tupelo)

45th Anniversary Plus:

10th to 28th August 2022

**(Memphis, Tupelo, Las Vegas,
Palm Springs and Hollywood)**

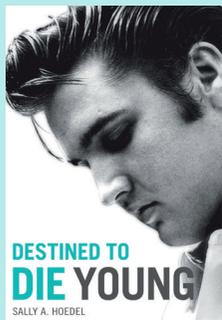
A trip to Memphis and Tupelo during Elvis week - especially on a major anniversary, is always special but if you can afford the time join us for one of the most comprehensive Elvis tours that we've ever done. You'll see all of Elvis' homes that are still standing, visit movie locations and where Elvis became the biggest name in Las Vegas' history. What a great way to celebrate our own 50 Years of Elvis travel.

AND MORE!

There will be many additional tours and Events in 2022 and beyond, including another Thames Charity Cruise, Elvis Festival, Charity Ball etc - more details in our next Newsletter.

'DESTINED TO DIE YOUNG' BOOK REVIEW

By Carol Pugh



Whilst I would struggle to find too many positives from consecutive Covid-19 lockdowns, one has surely been the opportunity to catch up on some long overdue Elvis reading.

Elvis is one of the most written about artists so we are spoilt for choice.

Over the years I'm sure we've all read a myriad of books ranging from the dreadful and salacious to the riveting and informative, covering nearly every aspect of Elvis' life.

Destined to Die Young, was a book I desperately wanted to enjoy, having met the author Sally A Hoedel back in August 2019 in Memphis and having immediately warmed to her. I invited Sally and also Ron Strauss (the pilot that flew the Lisa Marie) to a Strictly Elvis party we were throwing that night on Beale Street and Sally spoke of a book she was writing. It was to be called 'Elvis Destined to Die Young' and yes I can honestly say alarm bells started to ring, surely, there could be no more room in the Elvis world for a sensationalised book especially regarding such a private matter as Elvis' health? So it was with some reservation that in January this year I received the book and turned the first page...and then continued to turn page after fascinating page.

The book was a revelation, well written and above all thoroughly respectful. Sally is a fine journalist, her background in the written word is obvious, it is meticulously and painstakingly researched and backed up by strong scientific evidence provided by a wide range of people who witnessed Elvis and his family's health issues for many years; it is truly a labour of love.

The book goes back into time and takes a deep dive into the Presley and Smith family history and explores how genetics may have played a part in us losing Elvis

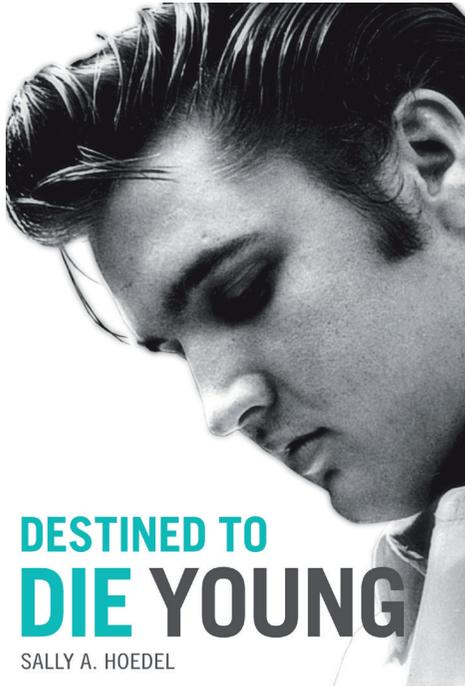
at the tragically young age of 42. Sally evidences how Elvis' genetic blueprint had the potential to create significant health issues for him and his family and how they developed, particularly in the case of Gladys and Elvis. She takes a look at the impact of poverty and severe hardship and how this moulded Elvis' thoughts and deeds. The insight the book provides goes a long way in flipping the theory of Elvis' misuse of prescription medication on its head. It allows us to question how Elvis in the latter years could have continued with his gruelling work schedule when managing his health conditions and their impact, and also we better understand how Elvis saw his role as being the one ultimately responsible for caring, emotionally and financially, for so many people around him, which wouldn't allow him to give up despite his many battles.

If your respect and admiration for Elvis was in place before this book then after reading the book it will multiply ten-fold, it shines a bright light into those areas of Elvis' life that were previously overlooked or misunderstood. It also helps us firmly dispute the assumptions that hogged the headlines of many tabloid newspapers over the decades, a source of huge frustration for Elvis fans.

Lastly, 'Destined to Die Young' allows us to put more of the Elvis story jigsaw pieces into place and to ultimately gain a better understanding of what made Elvis the totally unique man he was; and I guess you can't ask much more from an Elvis book than that.



Pilot Ron Strauss with Sally A Hoedel



DESTINED TO DIE YOUNG

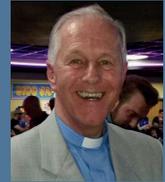
SALLY A. HOEDEL

‘Forget everything you have heard about Elvis in the decades since August 16, 1977. From the very second that Elvis’ death shocked the world, history has been rather unkind to the man who culturally shifted the universe. This book is an attempt to separate truth from legend and reality from mythology’

Journalist, historian and Elvis fan Sally A Hoedel examines Elvis Presley – devoted son, husband, father and friend – while ploughing through the negative hype and legendary myths surrounding the man..... Hoedel’s meticulous research sets the record straight and dispels the long-held theory that abuse of prescription drugs is what killed Elvis. Readers may be surprised to learn that, based on Elvis Presley’s family history and the genes he was dealt, nothing could have saved the King of Rock’n’Roll

This 335-page soft cover book costs £27.95 inclusive of UK postage and packing. For your signed copy order it now by phoning 01473 621 564 or 07721 435 291 or by sending a cheque or Postal Order (payable to Strictly Elvis UK) to Strictly Elvis UK, Unit D Bristol Court, Martlesham Heath Business park, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 3RY.

A Message from Reverend Derek



Hello everyone

In my youth, especially my teenage years, I was very good at gymnastics (honestly!). I was a member of the school gymnastics team and even won a few individual competitions. However, despite that skill I never really mastered the art of swimming. Going to the swimming baths aged 17 still carrying my water wings remains a very embarrassing memory!!

I recently came across the story of how a young lad had a really bad experience during one swimming lesson. Like the others of his class he was in the indoor pool though never going far from the edge, always wanting to be within touching distance of safety (just like me !). Outside the building a storm was brewing and soon thunder and lightning was all around. Those in the pool were totally unaware of all this until one enormous clap of thunder resulted in the lights suddenly going out and darkness descending. As you can imagine, panic followed since this was a new and frightening experience. Those in the pool stopped swimming and called to the teacher who shouted back “Keep on swimming” They did exactly that and in time the lights came on and order was restored.

During this last year we have all had times when it seems that the lights have gone out and the darkness has threatened to engulf us. The pandemic has caused us to value much that we previously took for granted and realise that despite everything there is always enough light to swim by. Thank goodness we are now coming through, albeit not unscarred, and that light is now getting brighter and life is becoming somewhat easier.

It has been a dark and stormy time and although we have had to be distanced, we are never distant. I am sure that there are many in the Strictly Elvis family who are grateful to those who have simply been there when needed, even for a prayer over the phone. As Elvis once sang, there is a place ‘Where No One Stands Alone’.

With my thoughts, prayers and hopes,

Rev Derek



WAKE UP PUTT

By David Hawthorne

We can all recall incidents, events, an off the cuff remark or a joke once played on a friend or work colleague. We then retell the story for years to come, much to the embarrassment of the victim, who accepts the banter in the good-natured manner in which it was intended.

For Elvis Presley's bass player Norbert Putman, 'the remark' he received occurred in 1971 when Elvis said out loud 'Wake Up Putt' while recording the song 'Merry Christmas Baby'. The song, with these words included, was released on The Wonderful World of Christmas album, thus forever immortalising Norbert on vinyl. "It's out there", Norbert states candidly, "and there's nothing I can do about it".

However, 40 years after that recording, Norbert wasn't expecting to be embarrassed by it again, and certainly not in front of 5000 Irish Elvis fans. In 2012 the Elvis In Concert show was touring Ireland and the UK. The UK opening show was in Belfast, it then travelled to Dublin before crossing to England.

This time The TCB band line up featured Norbert, who was replacing Elvis' regular 'in concert' bass player Jerry Scheff.

Jerry had retired a few years earlier. Norbert was the obvious choice; he had been Elvis' bass player in the recording studios since 1971 and is credited on 120 of Elvis' recordings.

With my two friends, Cliff Moore and John Bradley, we obtained tickets for both shows. For the Dublin show we had front row centre stage seats, and I got the idea to design a banner saying 'WAKE UP PUTT', to display at the show. I took fourteen A4 size pieces of card, using each card for a letter and with a black ink marker wrote out the quote and Sellotaped the sheets together. It was no work of art, but it looked good and measured nine feet in length. On the night we took our front row seats. I hadn't given any thought as to when we should display the banner, probably at the end of the show would be best. But then the concert itself provided the ideal moment.....during the band introductions.

When Norbert was introduced, the three of us stood up and unfurled the banner. Initially Norbert didn't notice; he was overcome by the audience's response and was busy waving to fans in the balcony. Remember this was his first tour with the TCB Band. I noticed The Sweet Inspirations were pointing to us

and laughing. They signalled to James Burton, he saw us, burst out laughing and in turn notified Norbert. When Norbert saw the banner, he stopped still, bent over and buried his head in his hands. He looked surprised, shocked and I think 'pleasantly embarrassed'. The introductions ended and we resumed our seats.

At the end of the show Norbert came over to us, pointed his finger and shouted



'I'll get you guys for this.' I immediately handed him the banner. He hesitated and I said go on take it. I don't want to have to carry it home.' He took it, I wished him good luck with the show and we said our farewells.

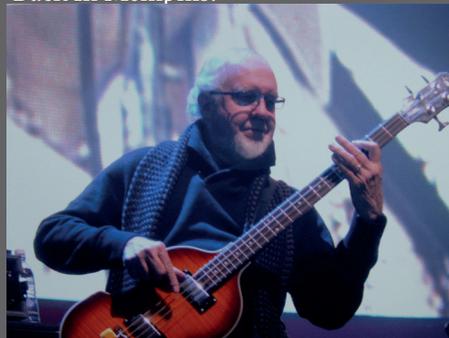
Our paths crossed again the following year when my friend Cliff and I went to Memphis for Elvis Week. That year Norbert was a special guest at an event in Stax Recording Studio. I had with me two large photographs of Norbert that I'd taken at the Belfast concert; in the hope that he would sign one and I could present him with the other.

Luckily we did meet him. I introduced myself and told him I was the one with the banner at the concert. He was surprised to see me and told me he had the banner mounted above the fireplace in his den. I was totally surprised and honoured. Norbert talked about 'the Elvis quote'. He said 'it was 4am and I was really tired. I had been up since

8am the previous day. It was a long blues song, and for a bass player blues is the most boring music to play. It's the same thing over and over and over again. I was sitting on a stool with my feet up and I was so tired, my eyes were closing and Elvis shouts "wake up Putt", I was startled, but I didn't miss a beat.

Our paths would cross again in 2017, this time in Tupelo. Norbert was there with his wife Sheryl at the invitation of Strictly Elvis/Elvis Travel Service. He approached me and said, 'I recognise you'. I reminded him who I was and he asked if he could have a photo taken with me. Now I immediately thought, here is a guy who was Elvis' bass player for 7 years, a member of the TCB Band, and he's asking permission to have a photo taken with me!

With my mischievous sense of humour and thinking this is a 'role reversal' situation, I replied, "sorry Norbert, I'm a bit busy at the moment could you come back later?" He stood back, laughed and asked his wife to fetch the camera. But Sheryl was busy, as a queue of fans had gathered to buy copies of his book 'Music Lessons'. However, Ann Martin, an Elvis fan friend, obligingly stepped in and took a superb picture of the two of us, which I later emailed to Norbert. Since then we have been in touch and I hope we meet again once International travel is permitted. I can't wait to be 'Back In Memphis'.





HAWAII 2023 ADVANCE DETAILS

We've chosen to visit Hawaii as a wonderful add-on to our Springtime luxury Memphis and Tupelo break in April/May 2023. This is to take advantage of the great weather in both Tennessee and Hawaii as well as the far better travel and accommodation costs at this time of the year. Details are still being worked out and a brochure is expected to be released by the end of the year but we are delighted to now be able to provide the dates, approximate itinerary and a good idea of the price.

MEMPHIS & TUPELO LUXURY BREAK

Wednesday 19th to Tuesday 25th April 2023

Very similar to our regular Spring USA Breaks with 5 nights at the luxurious Guest House at Graceland, a full day at Graceland, a day trip to Tupelo, a comprehensive tour of the Elvis sights of Memphis plus time to explore, shop and sightsee at leisure.

MEMPHIS & TUPELO FOLLOWED BY HAWAII AND SEATTLE

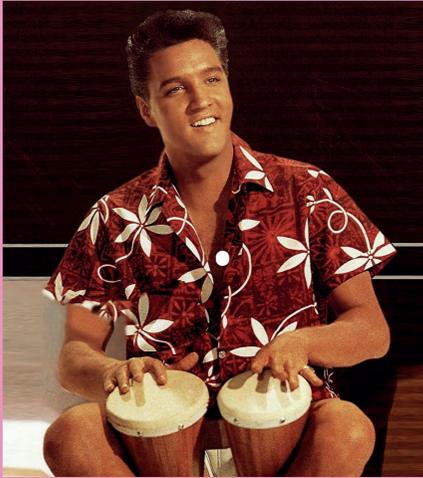
Wednesday 19th April to Thursday 4th May 2023

The first 6 days are as per the Luxury Break except that instead of then flying back to the UK we continue West, over the Pacific Ocean to the beautiful islands of Hawaii. We'll stay for a full week at the lovely Park Shore Waikiki Hotel situated overlooking the golden sandy Waikiki Beach and from here we'll have a great selection of excursions to fill your days when not lazing in the Hawaiian sunshine. Included tours comprise



of a sightseeing tour of Honolulu (plenty of Elvis sights here) with a scenic journey throughout the beautiful island of Oahu... including a visit to a pineapple plantation as well as a separate visit to Pearl Harbour and the USS Arizona Memorial. Optional tours include a visit to the island of Kauai, a visit to the Polynesian Cultural Center and a Sunset Dinner Cruise.

After 7 days in Hawaii, we fly back to the USA mainland in order to break the long journey to the UK. But this is no ordinary 'stop-over'. We've now arrived in Seattle,



capital of Washington State but known to Elvis fans perhaps more-so as the location for the movie 'It Happened At The World's Fair' and with 2 nights here we'll have time to see the film location sites and other Elvis sights before heading back to the UK. This is quite some holiday and although it is still too early for the airlines, hotels etc to provide accurate prices we have based our approximate prices below on our, and their, best estimates.

And we will gladly hold places for you on this tour for just a £50 refundable deposit until such time that we can confirm what the brochure prices will be. You can then cancel with a full refund of monies paid or pay the rest of the full deposit. Your holiday – your choice. We can't be fairer than that can we?

Expected Prices

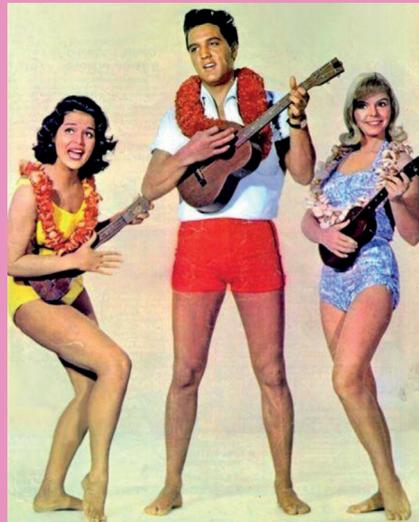
MEMPHIS & TUPELO

Single Room	£1998
Sharing twin or Double Room	£1678
Sharing Triple Room	£1578
Sharing Quad Room	£1498

MEMPHIS, TUPELO, HAWAII & SEATTLE

Single Room	£4698
Sharing twin or Double Room	£3698
Sharing Triple Room	£3378
Sharing Quad Room	£3198

The prices are inclusive of all your flights, accommodation, coach transfers and sightseeing tours as stated, admission to Graceland and all attractions on the 'included' tours, some meals and the services of experienced Tour Managers. Plus a few nice surprises along the way!



'ANYTHING THAT'S PART OF YOU'

By Neil Cameron

We pass by them all the time, but probably never think about their history – but statues have been in existence for thousands of years, in fact the oldest life size statue known to man is said to date back to over 9,000 years BC!

Statues were originally constructed to honour royalty, gods and those of high standing in society – very apt seeing as Elvis has had so many statues dedicated



to his likeness over the years. Elvis has been immortalised in stone, wood and metal in far flung destinations across the globe. Did you know that countries such as Japan and Israel are both home to such Elvis tributes? Those who have travelled on Elvis Travel Service tours have been lucky to have seen statues of 'our man' in such destinations as Memphis, Tupelo, Las Vegas, Hawaii and Shreveport, each one representing a different aspect of Elvis' life, from the young boy at the Tupelo Birthplace, the wild rock and roller depicted at the top of Beale Street in Memphis or the performer in his prime outside the 'Aloha From Hawaii' venue in Hawaii, and each honouring the achievements of his incredible life and legacy.

This year will see a fabulous brand-new Elvis statue being put in place, honouring his achievements not only in entertainment, but primarily his exemplary military career.

Bad Nauheim, Elvis' home whilst serving in Germany, is fast becoming an Elvis Family favourite. Just like in the USA, the Travel Service has established the most comprehensive tour of Elvis' assignment in Germany. And whilst we feature an array of places that relate to Elvis' time there, where he lived, shopped and socialised, we've always felt that there has been a lack of a permanent tribute that truly remembers Elvis in the way that he should be. There is a plaque outside of the tourist office (although sacrilegiously stolen at one time!) as well as the memorial on Elvis Presley Platz (tastefully done – albeit not with the best likeness) but there has always been something missing. That final piece of the puzzle was fixed by the hard work and diligence of the fan-led group 'Elvis in Bronze'.

Over 2 years the group has raised money and implemented the design and construction of a memorial cast (yep – you've guessed it!) in solid bronze.

The end result, as you can see in the picture, is truly amazing, both capturing his stunning features whilst representing one of the most iconic pictures of Elvis at this time in his life. As well as the statue, the group raised funds to fully restore the bridge that it will stand upon. Long changed since

the day when Elvis posed there, it has been extended and railings to match the ones in the original photo have also been constructed creating an overall tribute fully worthy of Elvis.

It's wonderful to see that so many years after him leaving us, that Elvis' life is still being honoured. However of course nothing is ever smooth sailing, and this does now cause a huge problem - which Elvis statue is now going to be our favourite!? The Hawaii one...no wait, it's got to be the one at the Visitors Centre in Memphis...maybe the Tupelo Fairgrounds...actually it's the... well if you'd like to be in an equal conundrum, why not join us for our Elvis in Germany tour this August to see the planned grand unveiling ceremony of the statue (postponed from January due to the pandemic) which will be an opportunity for you to be one of the first to see this fabulous statue in person. Call 01473 621564 for a brochure.



The Elvis Presley Film Society

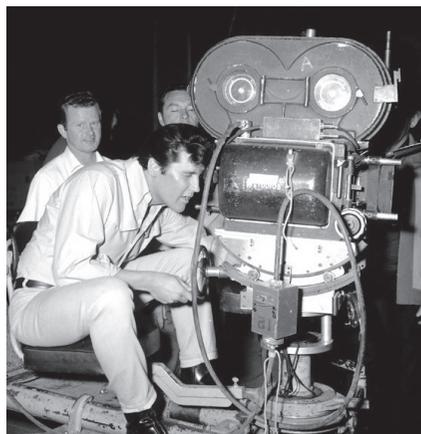
(Officially recognised by Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc)

Established in Glasgow in 1995 the Film Society has a commitment to present an insightful look at the career of Elvis Presley through film material – not only as a Hollywood star but also as an iconic, world-renowned stage performer and recording artist. Also utilised is candid film footage from private, non-professional times in his fascinating life.

The Society has presented many events in the Glasgow area and beyond, given talks on Elvis' career and exhibitions of film related materials. Documentaries on specific moments/events have been produced and screened resulting in a very positive reaction from audiences.

The Elvis Presley Film Society has a considerable number of unique DVD's for sale, covering many aspects of Elvis' career. Email us for a full list of what's available.

Email:
elvispresley.filmsociety@ntlworld.com

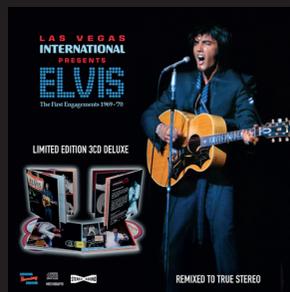
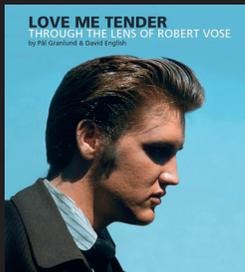




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 020 8552 7551 (10:30am - 6:00pm)



SOUVENIR ENAMEL PIN-BADGES

Support us and, at the same time, show the world that you're a member of the Elvis family with this unique and beautifully British-made Strictly Elvis UK enamel pin badge. At 35mm long by 12mm high it's the perfect size for wearing in a lapel but would be equally attractive worn on a jumper or fastened to a bag. Or add it to your badge collection because this 1st Edition is sure to become a Collector's item.



Priced at just £4.95* (and that includes VAT, postage, packing!) it's a lovely little treat for yourself or would make a great present for family and friends.

For your badge/s simply call us on 01473 621 564 or 07721 435 291 with Credit or Debit card details to hand and we'll take your order over the phone. Alternatively, if you would prefer to pay by cheque or Postal Order simply send your name and address to us with the correct payment and we'll forward you the badge/s.

Remember, Strictly Elvis UK doesn't charge anything for you to be a member of our Elvis family and hopefully we'll never have to, but it does cost thousands of £'s to print and mail out our Newsletters so the support that you show by purchasing a badge helps pay for these and that's so appreciated by us all.

JOIN US ON THE 2021 THAMES ELVIS CRUISE



Delayed from 2020 the Elvis Thames Charity Cruise now takes place on Sunday 18th July 2021 and by then

won't we all be desperate for our 'floating fix' of Elvis? The Cruise departs at 2:00pm and returns to the pier at 6:00pm so 4 hours of fun aboard the Dixie Queen, a Mississippi-style double decked vessel that's the largest passenger boat on the Thames. And as we cruise along the Thames seeing many of the sights of our great capital city we'll have DJ Mark Monaghan playing the Elvis hits and Rockin' Dave Riley singing his heart out to a mixture of Elvis and great Rock&Roll numbers. With 2 bars on board you shouldn't go thirsty either so sign up for tickets on this great voyage. Call us on 01473 621 564 for tickets at £27.50 per person.



As with all our events Strictly Elvis UK does not use Elvis Tribute Artists/Elvis Impersonators. There is, and only ever will be, one Elvis Presley.

50 YEARS... AND STILL GOING STRONG

By David Wade



I hope that headline isn't tempting fate but it wasn't until just a few months ago that someone bravely pointed out to me that I'd been arranging Elvis tours for 50 years – well actually it is slightly longer as I was involved in running some European trips before that but I'm happy enough to accept that the Travel Service didn't start 'proper' until 1972. I'd never have imagined that as a 12 year-old boy, on my own, waiting for someone to come out of the Exit doors of the Odeon Cinema in Ipswich (so that I could rush inside before they slammed shut, wait for the Usherette to disappear before making my way to a seat beside an adult...any adult), that one day I'd be part - albeit a small one - of the Elvis world. You see the movie was King Creole (still my favourite) which was 'A' rated so I had to be with an adult. Also my meagre pocket money didn't stretch to cinema prices. Oops – I've admitted to a felony. I'd been hooked on Elvis long before when staying with a 'young at heart' aunt and uncle who would, quite literally, 'roll up the carpet' in their front room and jive the night away. I'll never forget going to sleep to the strains of Teddy Bear or Jailhouse Rock.

On leaving school/college I had three ambitions – to see Elvis perform live, to walk on the Great Wall of China and to sail on the Amazon, so going into the travel business seemed to be my best bet although I hadn't at that stage figured out how, or if, I'd ever achieve all three. Luck played its part for sure; being in the right place at the right time, never taking 'no' for an answer and, strangely, looking older than I really was. Balding in my early 20's I could easily pass for someone more mature and I learnt my trade with two excellent companies before ambition led me to start my own business – at which point I could concentrate on fulfilling all of my dreams.



DJW stealing the Col's hat

For many years I worked alongside the Fan Club – and loved it. No regrets at all, especially as during those early days I got to fulfil the first of my ambitions and



Jerry Phillips wondering who this guy is?

built up some wonderful friendships; but whilst keeping the Travel Service slightly separate (it was very much my personal 'baby') from the main part of the company - which was fast growing into the UK's largest specialist tour company - by leading tours for clients such as the Daily Mail or Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) I was soon able to fulfil the other ambitions too. Pity I chose to visit the Great Wall of China in early February tho' - coldest I've ever been in my life!

Of course, prior to August 1977 the main purpose of the Elvis tours was to see Elvis perform live, taking thousands of fans to see him - we still visited Memphis and Tupelo of course and also places such as Nashville, Las Vegas and Los Angeles as well as, finally, Cincinnati and Indianapolis - seeing the last two concerts that Elvis ever did. After being

questioned by Reporters all day on the 17th August that fateful year, one of them asked me if we were planning a trip to Elvis' funeral. "No" I said (somewhat emphatically I seem to remember), "that could be taken as in very poor taste - but what we might do is run a tour next year to mark the first anniversary of Elvis' death...a kind of, er, 'Memorial Tour'". And that's where that title came from. After a suitably respectful period we decided to change that name to Anniversary Tour and to even build upon it with added departures - Elvis' Birthday, Spring Break, Thanksgiving etc and also to extend the itineraries taking in so many of the other places with strong Elvis connections...including New Orleans of course, where we take everyone on a tour of the King Creole film location sites and, remembering the day I sat awe-struck in the Odeon, my life turns full circle.

Perhaps the 50th Anniversary of the Elvis Travel Service is a good time to look back - to write a book even - but no, I'm not ready for that yet. Lots of good years left in the Wade (there I go again - tempting fate!) so I'd rather look forward instead of back. If you've got the best (albeit unpaid) job in the world, why wouldn't you?



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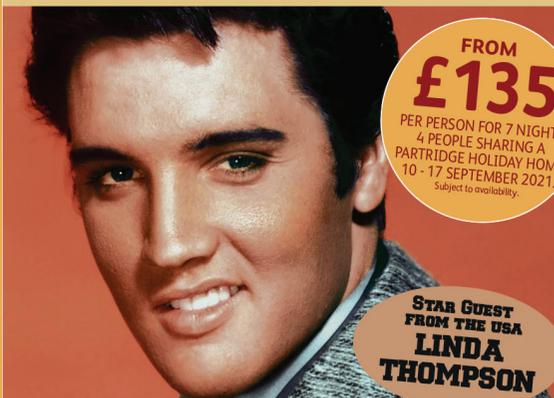


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