

# Strictly ELVIS UK

**ELVIS**  
TRAVEL SERVICE

**Newsletter No. 31**

Winter 2023/2024

Good Morning,

Aren't we lucky here in the UK? We've recently had seven marvellous Elvis Concerts accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra performed in some of the UK's largest arenas. Let's just think about that for a moment. Here we have Elvis performing on a huge screen in super-high definition and unbelievable sound clarity with a proper full-sized orchestra playing their hearts out below...and with side screens picking out the individual players and backing singers – and their dance routines! – just to add even more to the show. Few concerts for living artistes give us as much and certainly don't have the atmosphere that these can offer. It proves what an incredible showman Elvis was and, through this type of concert, still is. Why am I asking why we're so lucky? Well, it's simply because we, here in the UK, are the only fans to have had this show. It hasn't been performed anywhere else and probably won't be. It was done for us, not the fans in Brazil, or Australia, or even the USA, many of whom being just as loyal to 'our man' as we are but clearly the incredible cost of taking a show such as this 'on the road' would demand more fans in any one place than the other nations could muster. So it comes to the UK where EPE and the promoters know that we won't let them – or Elvis of course – down.

And now we also have the 'Direct from Graceland' Elvis Exhibition at the new Arches London Bridge venue alongside London Bridge Station in the heart of the city. This is

the first Exhibition to be held in this venue – itself an amazing amalgamation of cavernous railway arches, brilliantly modernised and ideal for a 'get up close' collection of Elvis artifacts that will take your breath away. The Exhibition lasts only until 25th February so don't miss it. Unlike the Concert it wouldn't be viable to take this around the UK so it has to stay in one place and I realise that travel can be expensive but check-out National Express who can offer really good rates on a London Day Return. And this Exhibition too is heading back to Graceland after it finishes in London – not available elsewhere.



I'm delighted to say that we at Strictly Elvis UK/Elvis Travel Service are always ready to help overseas fans and so, combining the Elvis Concert at the O2 on 31st October and the Direct from Graceland Exhibition on 1st November, we were delighted to arrange the visits of coachloads of fans from France and Belgium – lovely people and brought together with us by a combined love of Elvis making it an international occasion. Oh yes, that's another reason we're so lucky.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and the brochures (and complimentary Bookmark/Calendar) enclosed. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. And have a fabulous Christmas & New Year.

Take care,

T  
Cheers for now  
B

David J. Wade



# DIARY UPDATE

Find us on...



**Strictly Elvis Travel  
and Events**



**@ElvisTravel**



**@StrictlyElvis**

News spreads 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.

# 2024

## ELVIS BIRTHDAY BASH

**6th – 8th January 2024**

Celebrate Elvis' 89th Birthday with us at the Elvis Exhibition, Arches London Bridge, for quizzes, prize-winning fun and a celebration Birthday Cupcake – Happy Birthday Elvis! Details on Facebook/website or calling 01473 621 564

## USA SPRING BREAKS

**Memphis and Tupelo**

**15th – 22nd April 2024**

**New Orleans, Biloxi and Crystal River**

**21st – 30th April 2024**

Another fabulous Elvis Travel Service USA Spring Break where our extension tour heads south to explore King Creole country, Follow That Dream locations in Crystal River and the vibrant coastal city of Biloxi - full of Elvis history.

## EARLY SUMMER UK BREAK 2024

**14th June – 17th June 2024**

**Marsham Court Hotel  
Bournemouth**

An opportunity for fans to get together for a long-weekend of Elvis in one of the UK's finest resorts, Bournemouth, at our 4 star privately-owned hotel with sea views and close to the amenities and sights that this wonderful seaside town has to offer.

## ELVIS THAMES CRUISE

**Celebrating 70 years of  
'That's All Right Mama'**

**7th July 2024**

The Elvis Thames Cruise is back by popular demand. Once again the Port of London will raise Tower Bridge in honour of the King, Elvis that is - sorry Charles!

Join this special That's All Right Mama Anniversary Cruise from 12.00noon to 4.00pm aboard Dixie Queen as we sail by many of London's major sights, rockin' and rollin' to the sounds of Elvis.

Price £29.50 per person (children under 14 £19.50) Further details on page 5

**47TH ELVIS ANNIVERSARY TOUR**  
**11th August – 20th August 2024**  
**CANADA EXTENSION**  
**19th – 23rd AUGUST 2024**

An opportunity to celebrate the life and achievements of Elvis in his home town staying at the 5\* Guesthouse at Graceland Hotel and participating in the candlelight vigil with fans from around the globe. But that's not all, we then move onto the fascinating city of Toronto Canada and experience the wonder of Niagara Falls.

**BAD NAUHEIM & EUROPEAN ELVIS FESTIVAL**  
**August 14th/15th – August 19th 2024**

Join us for a fabulous 5/6 day break to Germany at the time of the European Elvis Festival in the beautiful spa town where Elvis lived while stationed in Germany, there is an option to travel out early for an additional day.

**BAD NAUHEIM & GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS**  
**November 28th – December 2nd 2024**

Like to stay in the same hotel that Elvis lived in during his tour of duty with the US Army in Germany? On this tour you can, in fact you'll see dozens of Elvis sights, including where Elvis lived, shopped, socialised and had some of his most iconic photos taken - plus one or two location sights from G.I Blues. We'll explore the picturesque towns of Bad Nauheim and Friedberg as well as visit some of Germany's magical Christmas markets, including Rudesheim and Frankfurt, come with us and experience this wonderful festive break.



# 2025

**ELVIS' 90TH BIRTHDAY TOUR**  
**5th January – 12th January 2025**  
**Memphis & Tupelo**

A wonderful way to celebrate this momentous Birthday occasion while enjoying the famous Graceland Christmas lights and decorations. Come with us on a journey of celebration as we offer a choice of two great itineraries over Elvis' 90th Birthday period. For those with limited time we have a weeklong tour featuring the best of Memphis and Tupelo and for those that wish to continue the Birthday celebrations then why not join us for our extension tour.

**Memphis & Tupelo plus Las Vegas, Palm Springs & Hollywood**  
**5th January – 18th January 2025**

After the Birthday celebrations in Memphis, travel onwards with us to explore even more great Elvis locations as we visit the glitz of Las Vegas, the delights of Palm Springs and the glamour of Hollywood.

**48TH ELVIS ANNIVERSARY TOUR**  
**August 2025 Advance Notice**  
**(brochure available late 2024)**  
**Memphis, Tupelo, St Augustine, Daytona Beach and Jacksonville Florida**

What better time to pay your respects and celebrate the life of Elvis than Elvis Week? Your time there will include a visit to Elvis' home, Graceland, the aircraft and exhibits, a tour of the Elvis sights of Memphis, a full day visit to Tupelo (all included in the tour price) and if that wasn't enough it also offers the unique opportunity to pay your respects with other fans from around the world at the Candlelight Vigil. For those that want to continue their tour we will offer an extension to the stunning shores of Florida, staying in the oldest City in the US, St Augustine with its charming Spanish Colonial Architecture and white sand beaches whilst experiencing the many Elvis sights in Daytona and Jacksonville - a perfect combination.



# THE ELVIS FESTIVAL 2023

## BY SOO FULLER

My personal introduction to Elvis and the Elvis Festivals began in 1982 when I was a young 18-year-old and my first proper boyfriend (a Teddy Boy) asked me if I would go with him and his sister to an Elvis week run by the Elvis Travel Service. I had little knowledge of Elvis, apart from the films on TV during the school summer holidays and the tunes everyone knew – Hound Dog, Wooden Heart etc. – but it was a week by the seaside, so I thought “why not”! Little did I know that would be the beginning of my love affair with Elvis and the annual Elvis Festivals.

During the years of attending the Elvis Festivals as a guest I had fantastic fun, met so many wonderful people, made some lifelong friends and chatted to (and danced with) people who actually personally knew and loved The King. WOW! Where else but at a Strictly Elvis Festival could you say that you have seen, met, chatted to and danced with such amazing folk.

The Elvis Festival 2023 was an extra special experience for me as, even though I have helped out here and there, this year was my first year as a fully-fledged member of the Strictly Elvis team and I had the immense privilege and pleasure to be working alongside a fabulous bunch of people dedicated to Elvis and the care and enjoyment of everyone attending.

I realised this year what a hard-working bunch of people they all are, tiredness and aching feet were the norm but the whole team did everything they possibly could to keep things upbeat and jolly with a constant smile and a happy word for all.

For me one of the highlights of the Elvis Festival 2023 had to be my involvement in the Memphis Prize Bingo where I saw a lovely lady win the trip of a lifetime for two, to go and see Elvis’ beautiful home. She had never been before and was crying with happiness when she realised that she had won – how simply wonderful!!

Also, as a fledgling DJ the Festival gave me the amazing opportunity to play some fabulous “alternative” tunes for you all after hours in the V Lounge, and this year I also played an all Elvis set – my first ever – and I loved every minute of it. I felt the Festival had a fabulous vibe about it this year, everyone dancing with smiling faces, amazing bands playing a variety of music from Rock ‘n’ Roll to Soul, and Linda Gail Lewis playing brother Jerry Lee’s biggest hits. Also enjoying the many wonderful hours of pure, unadulterated Elvis tunes loved and played by the very best Elvis DJ’s keeping the dancefloor full.

There were lots of fun events, competitions, talks by Donna Presley and Alanna Nash, both extremely fascinating to listen to with their own Elvis related stories. There were also daily dance classes where we could learn to jive and stroll and then bring those new skills to the dancefloors in the evenings.

The sun shone for us all at the Hawaiian patio party which was a riot of colour, music and laughter with members of the team entertaining everyone with funny little dances, costumes and even bongos!!

It also did my heart good to see all the fabulous ways in which we, as the Elvis Family, were giving back and raising money for so many wonderful charitable causes, just as Elvis himself did in his never-ending philanthropic way.

There were many familiar faces at the Festival this year, it has become something of a pilgrimage to come to “Yarmo” each year and an event which so many of the Elvis Family simply cannot miss – me included.

We were also lucky this year to be blessed with newcomers too, some of which I chatted to and they were all having a ball at their first ever Festival...just as I did back in 1982.





## A Christmas message from Rev Derek

Hello everyone,

Like Elvis, I have always enjoyed Christmas, especially receiving presents! (though I understand it's more blessed to give than receive).

You see, I tend to look at the pile of gifts, carefully glancing at each name tag, and gently squeezing the ones for me trying to guess what's inside (not socks again!)

Of course, I try to do this when there's nobody around. I admit that I'm not the easiest of people to buy for and one year, after running out of ideas, my wife asked me what I'd like. In my casual way I replied "I don't really mind, just give me a surprise". So it was, on Christmas Day she crept up behind me and shouted "BOO!" (Maybe socks would've been a better choice!)

I wonder if any of the gifts you'll receive this year, will be returned or exchanged for whatever reason. I would guess that just after Christmas the shops will be full of people doing exactly that. Of course, until you've unwrapped it, you don't really know what it is, so unwrapping the gift is essential- that is if you can get through all of the Sellotape!!

This is especially true of God's gift at Christmas, for until you can see beyond the wrapping and glitter, you will not be able to properly receive the gift which is especially for you.

For unlike the message so often proclaimed that Santa Claus will only give his gifts to 'good' children, God's gift is offered to all regardless of merit.

And this is one gift that fits all shapes and sizes!! The birth of the Christ child reminds us that Christmas itself is a gift from God and there's no need to exchange it.

So, this Christmas...

Receive the gift,  
Unwrap it,  
And discover the world's greatest gift.

For as someone has said "Jesus is God with skin on".

So, be certain this year to get past the distracting to get to the Divine.

May you have a Happy and Blessed Christmas,  
With every blessing,

*Rev Derek*



## 2024 Thames Elvis Cruise | Sunday 7th July

Oh yes, due to popular demand we are once more rolling down the river, this time it's certainly going to be quite an occasion as we'll also be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of 'That's All Right Mama', so expect some thumpin' Sun numbers to be played on board by our DJ Mark Monaghan and our rock'n'roll jukebox Rockin' Dave Riley.

Our cruise will be on board the Dixie Queen, a Mississippi style double decked vessel that's the largest passenger boat sailing on the Thames, which means that Tower Bridge will once more open to the sounds of the King – Elvis of course.

With 2 bars on board you certainly won't go thirsty, whilst dancing the afternoon away or leisurely taking in some of the magnificent sights of London listening to many of Elvis' greatest hits

Adults - £29.50  
Children Under 14 - £19.50

Call us on 01473 621 564 for tickets

# USA Spring Break – LAST CALL!



**This is the last opportunity to join us for our USA Spring Break, with a choice of 3 fantastic tours.**

**Tour A Memphis and Tupelo Monday 15th to Monday 22nd April 2024** - a luxury Break, staying at The Guesthouse of Graceland and enjoying six full days to take in all that Elvis' home-town has to offer. You'll visit Graceland, his magnificent home, take a day trip to see Tupelo and his humble beginnings in the place it all began. And enjoy our now legendary Elvis Travel Service full day tour of Memphis. This is an in-depth holiday enjoyed in the company of fellow Elvis fans and will be full of fun and memorable moments.

**Tour B New Orleans, Biloxi and Crystal River Sunday 21st to Tuesday 30th April 2024** - for those fans who may have been to Memphis and Tupelo many times before and only have the time to enjoy the excitement and colour of New Orleans, the Elvis connection in Biloxi and the stunning beauty of Crystal River in Florida. You will explore the location sites of *King Creole* and *Follow that Dream*. Both of these destinations

have been featured on previous, hugely enjoyable trips but never combined on the same one. And its many years since we last visited Biloxi, much enjoyed by Elvis during his time with the lovely June Juanico who hailed from there. A hugely enjoyable tour of many unchanged movie locations and magnificent scenery combine to make this a unique Elvis experience.

**Tour C Memphis, Tupelo, New Orleans, Biloxi & Crystal River Monday 15th to Tuesday 30th April 2024** The lot, the whole caboodle – taking in 5 States (Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida) by combining Tours A and B

The Elvis Travel Service has built its reputation on providing the most detailed, in-depth Elvis tours possible but layering them with friendships, fun and unforgettable experiences that last a lifetime.

If you're interested in the last few places we have available on this very special tour, please contact us on  
**0143 621 564** or  
**[enquiries@strictlyelvis.net](mailto:enquiries@strictlyelvis.net)**

# ELVIS EARLY-SUMMER BREAK 2024

## MARSHAM COURT HOTEL BOURNEMOUTH

14TH TO 17TH JUNE 2024



### The Elvis Early Summer Break is back! Join us for a fabulous long weekend of Elvis entertainment and fun in the lovely resort of Bournemouth

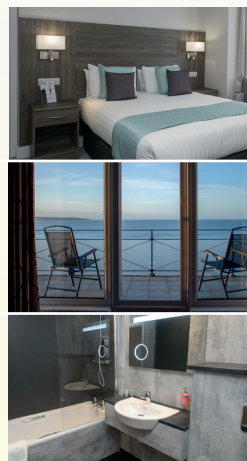
Of all the great Spring or Early Summer seaside breaks that the Elvis Travel Service has arranged the last one in Bournemouth was probably the best. Why? Was it because it was a wonderful combination of choice of resort, hotel and entertainment; combined with the 'buzz' that's in the air whenever the Elvis family get together. Everyone loved Bournemouth, such an elegant city yet full of seaside fun too, and our hotel could not

have been better – the Marsham Court Hotel is a landmark property just oozing class. Lovely rooms, tasty food, excellent function facilities and the friendliest of staff...perfect! And the entertainment....a great mix of live music, all-Elvis Discos, video footage, competitions and chat – plus ample time allowed for you to do your own thing too. And Bournemouth won't disappoint.

### Marsham Court Hotel

This large privately-owned hotel sits proudly on Bournemouth's East Cliff overlooking the sea, directly opposite the historic Russell Cotes Art Gallery & Museum and just a few minutes stroll from the glorious sandy beach and pier, the scenic Lower and Central Gardens and the town centre shops. The hotel ([www.marshamcourthotel.com](http://www.marshamcourthotel.com)) offers a wonderful selection of rooms, many with sea views and some with private balconies...all have modern en suite facilities plus there's a large, comfortable lounge bar, a superb restaurant, a heated outdoor pool and sun deck, and the best ever function rooms for our Elvis Early Summer Break.

Each day starts with a 'Full English' buffet breakfast plus there's juices, cereals, yoghurts, fruit, breads & pastries and each evening there's a 3 course plus tea/coffee table-service dinner selection for you to choose from. You definitely won't go hungry!





## Activities and Entertainment

**Friday 14th June** We kick off our Elvis entertainment with an all-Elvis Disco – a great opportunity to relax after your journey, to meet up with old friends, enjoy a dance or just sit back and listen to your favourite Elvis tracks played by our **DJ Mark Monaghan**.



**Saturday 15th June** We'll be keeping the Saturday morning mostly free for you to enjoy the facilities of the hotel, to explore Bournemouth, head for the beach or gardens or take in some retail therapy in the excellent shopping streets just minutes from the hotel.

Rockin' Dave Riley



However we'll have our Elvis Marketplace plus an Elvis Movie Medley during the day and this evening we have live music with **Rockin' Dave Riley** followed by our all-Elvis Disco.



**Sunday 16th June** Sunday morning (but not too early!) sees the return of the ever-popular Dave Riley's Request Show as he sings the numbers (Elvis or otherwise) of your choice. He has an encyclopaedic memory for lyrics so see if you can catch him out with some rarities. The afternoon is

free except for buying (or selling) at the Elvis Marketplace as well as other Elvis-related activities and this evening we welcome

**Rockin' the Joint** – one of the UK's leading 50's/60's Rock & Roll groups playing the music of Elvis, Carl Perkins, Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran and many more from that great era. And that'll be followed by our all-Elvis Disco, of course!



Rockin' the Joint



**Monday 17th June** A lazy morning on Monday before heading home or you might want to add an extra night and visit the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu (plus visit the Palace and Abbey at the same time), to take a cruise of

historic Poole Harbour, visit the Oceanarium Aquarium, explore some of the picturesque New Forest villages or even take a day trip over to the Isle of Wight.





## Bournemouth

With its Blue Flag award-winning golden sand beaches, cosmopolitan atmosphere and great location on Britain's south coast, Bournemouth somehow combines city excitement with resort relaxation – so no wonder it is one of the UK's most popular holiday destinations. There really is so much to do here but, perhaps, just as important, it's a great place to do very little...except sit in the sunshine and watch the world go by. For the active there are water sports, plus golf, beach walks, beautiful gardens to see, museums and galleries to visit and a superb choice of excursions to take such as a cruise of Poole Harbour, the 2nd largest natural harbour in the world (after Sydney Harbour – we knew you'd ask!), a fascinating visit to the RNLI College to see how they train the lifeboat crews, a drive through the tranquil New Forest, search for fossils along the World Heritage Jurassic Coast, take a thrilling Pier-to-Shore zip-wire 'flight' or a more sedate trundle along the promenade on the Land Train.

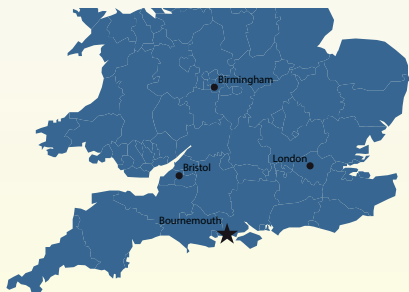
In need of some retail therapy? Then you could hardly be in a better place for treatment. The big-name stores of Bournemouth's city centre are just a few minutes from the hotel and there's certainly no shortage of shops...department stores, boutiques, speciality emporiums and the obligatory multitude of coffee shops are all there, but if you are looking for quaintness, individuality, retro, antiques, nautical or just plain quirky then you're sure to find something special along the lanes around Poole Quay, in the nearby coastal villages of Southbourne, Boscombe, Westbourne (which has an exquisite Victorian Arcade) or the nearby town of Christchurch.

Feeling peckish – well that's more than taken care of by the vast array of eateries. Whilst breakfast and dinner are included in this special break you could of course also have lunch in the hotel but isn't it tempting to have it at Rick Stein's Sandbanks restaurant or perhaps enjoy fish'n'chips followed by an ice cream on the seafront? Oh, and the Marsham Court Hotel are renowned for their extravagant Afternoon Teas. Prosecco anyone?



### Getting there

Located half-way along the UK's sunny south coast and just approx 75 road miles from Bristol, 100 from London and 150 from the Midlands, the premier resort of Bournemouth enjoys excellent road and rail links from most of the country.



If travelling by car then the hotel has a large car park (no charge for hotel guests) and the train and coach stations are a five-minute taxi ride away. National Express offers an excellent coach service to Bournemouth from towns and cities throughout the UK and rail tickets to Bournemouth can be excellent value if booked well in advance.

Strictly  
**ELVIS** UK

**ELVIS**  
TRAVEL SERVICE

# Questions Answered

## HOLIDAY DATES

This special long-weekend Early Summer Break commences from 2:00pm on Friday 14th June and ends at 11:00am on Monday 17th June but you are welcome to add an extra night's hotel stay on either Thursday 13th or Monday 17th (or even both!) at the special per person/extra night rate shown.

### HOLIDAY PRICES (per person)

	3 nights (Friday - Monday)	Additional Night (Thursday or Monday)
Single room	£358	£86
Double room for single use	£448	£116
Sharing Double or Twin room	£378	£86
Sharing Triple Family Room	£368	£84
Sharing Quad Family Room	£358	£82
Double for single use/sea view	£548	£146
Sharing Double or Twin/sea view	£418	£99
Sharing Triple Room/sea view	£408	£96
Sharing Quad Room/sea view	£398	£94
Sharing Double or Twin/sea view/balcony	£448	£106
Sharing Triple Room/sea view/balcony	£418	£100
Sharing Quad Room/sea view/balcony	£408	£96

Children's prices on Request.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

The holiday price is inclusive of:

- 3 nights accommodation as selected
- Full English Buffet-style breakfast daily
- Table Service Dinner daily
- The programme of Elvis entertainment
- Value Added Tax @ 20%
- The services of Elvis Travel Service Tour Managers

### NOT INCLUDED

Any travel arrangements, lunches, drinks, and personal items.

### ADDITIONAL NIGHTS

If you would like to add on an extra night or two giving you an even greater opportunity to enjoy this wonderful Early Summer Break then please advise us of your request by phone.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We would strongly recommend that you have Travel Insurance – in particular against cancellation for medical reasons.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of just £75 per person is required to book this holiday. The balance is due not less than 72 days prior to the holiday commencement. Upon receipt of your deposit (and obviously subject to places being available) you will be sent a Confirmation-Invoice. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the holiday you will be sent your final detailed instructions, baggage tags etc.

### PAYMENT BY DEBIT/ CREDIT CARD

We are pleased to accept payment by Debit or Credit Card for all, or part, of the holiday cost. If you wish to pay by card please call us on 01473 621 564. Please note that we cannot accept American Express.

*The names 'Elvis', 'Elvis Presley', 'Graceland' and 'The Guest House at Graceland' are registered to Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc with the USPTO*

### ENQUIRIES AND HOW TO BOOK

To book your place on this Elvis Spring Break simply call us on 01473 621 564.

Likewise if you have any questions about the holiday, would like to reserve a table for the Elvis Marketplace or any other queries then call us on the above number or email us at [enquiries@strictlyelvis.net](mailto:enquiries@strictlyelvis.net)

**Elvis Early-Summer Break  
Elvis Travel Service/Strictly  
Elvis UK  
Unit D Bristol Court  
Martlesham Heath  
Business Park  
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 3RY**

# IF EVERY DAY WAS LIKE CHRISTMAS

*by Carol Pugh*



If you ask Elvis fans what they thought Elvis' favourite time of year was, many would say 'Christmas'.

Elvis' first Christmas at Graceland was in 1957 and on 12th December of that year Elvis purchased a giant Santa and sleigh decoration for the grounds of Graceland, it read, "Merry Christmas to All, Elvis" it seems Elvis wanted to share his seasonal cheer with all of his fans.

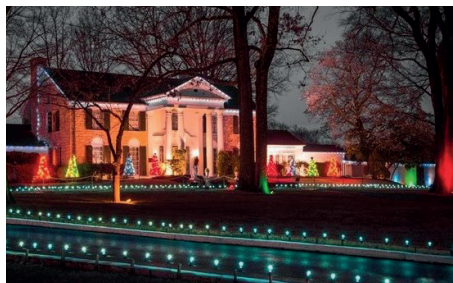
In 1965, Elvis was once again preparing for Christmas celebrations by leasing a Nativity scene for the front lawn of Graceland, this ornate structure certainly came at a cost, at \$1,140 for the first year's rental alone. The original hand-painted fiberglass Nativity scene served as the backdrop for Elvis and Priscilla's 1965 Christmas card. The Nativity stable measured 15 feet wide and included nine figurines - those of Mother Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus in a manger, three wise men, one shepherd, one angel and one calf's head. Whilst it was certainly a hugely impressive scene, Elvis asked for the angel that hung above the Holy Family to be removed from the structure shortly after its debut because he thought the figurine was too shapely and inappropriate for a religious representation! When the company that Elvis, and eventually Graceland, leased the Nativity scenes from went out of business, Graceland purchased the displays to ensure the continuation of Elvis' holiday tradition and they are on display each Christmas to this day.

Over the years Elvis continued to add Christmas decorations to the Graceland grounds and had seen an impressive California home with a decorated blue light driveway, Elvis put a call into Vernon to purchase similar lights ahead of the Christmas celebrations, Vernon was dubious, however he went ahead and sourced a large supply of the vivid blue lights and arranged for them to be fitted along Graceland's extensive driveway, Vernon could be heard joking that one day, he'd wake up and find an airplane parked on the driveway due to its resemblance of a runway and its close proximity to Memphis Airport.

Elvis not only organised the decorating of the exterior of Graceland but gave the same care and attention to the interior. He displayed two Christmas trees in his home, a white in the sitting room and a green in the dining room, the original baubles and tinsel that belonged to the Presley's are still used and are carefully packed away each year in readiness for the following Christmas. We are fortunate to have so many photos of Elvis at Graceland at Christmas, obviously enjoying the celebrations and doing what Elvis is known for best, the giving of gifts and presents.

Graceland maintains the tradition of decorating the house and grounds and for keeping them in place until after Elvis' Birthday on 8th January and whilst we know that Graceland looks wonderful at any time of year it's Christmas sparkle is certainly a sight to see.

If you want to see the Graceland Christmas lights and decorations why don't you join us for Elvis' Birthday tour in January 2025?



# FESTIVE BOOK MART & MORE

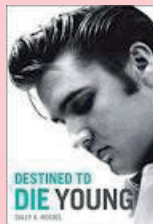
Do we have a Santa's sack full of fabulous Elvis items for you? From main presents to stocking-fillers, there's something for everyone this Christmas season.

Perfect as a gift for a fellow Elvis fan, or just as a treat for yourself, our bumper load of items are sure to add a little festive cheer.

And remember: All of our prices include UK postage and packing – so the price you see is the price you pay, with no added charges.

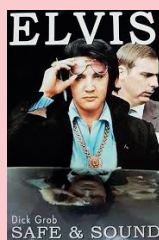


**Strictly Elvis Badges** A great way to show you're a proud member of the Elvis Family. These enamel badges look fantastic on a lapel, bag or jumper. A lovely present for yourself or your Elvis friends. Price: £5.95



**Elvis: Destined To Die Young** by Sally A. Hoedel. This is the definitive examination of why the world lost Elvis Presley when he was only 42 years old. Painstakingly researched the subject and offers factual and scientific data, plus

never-before-published information she gained by interviewing those who personally knew Elvis. This highly acclaimed book is exclusively available in the UK through Strictly Elvis and all copies are signed by the author. Price: £29.50



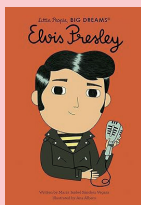
**Elvis: Safe and Sound** by Dick Grob. This classy hardcover award-winning book by Elvis' head of security tells the inside story of what it was like both on the road and at home at Graceland in the 1970's.

Supported by many never-before-seen photo's and documents it is one of those 'must have' books in any Elvis library. Price: £34.95

**Elvis and the Memphis Mafia** by Alanna Nash. A close up look at Elvis' life and career through the recollections of three of his closest friends and confidants. This huge 796 page book reveals many untold stories of Elvis' phenomenal life from his teenage years through to his final days. Price: £27.50 (signed by author)

**Baby, Let's Play House** by Alanna Nash, An intimate reveal of Elvis' life through the women who knew him best – lovers, sweethearts, friends, co-stars and family members. This book gives an insight into the legacy of Elvis and his status of being the 20th century's most famous romantic idol. Price: £27.50 (signed by author)

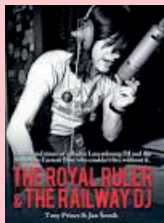




## Little People, Big Dreams – Elvis

**Presley** by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara. This popular series of children's books now features a volume on Elvis Presley. Showcasing how Elvis

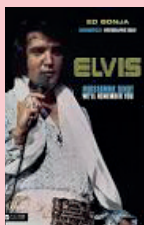
achieved incredible things through text and wonderful illustrations, this book will feed the imagination of little minds and give them an early start into understanding the wonderful world of Elvis. Price: **£11.95**



## The Royal Ruler and the Railway DJ

by Tony Prince. A look behind the scenes of the radio and music industries by the first British DJ to interview Elvis and the only British

DJ to introduce Elvis on-stage. Price: Hardback **£19.95** / Paperback **£14.95** (signed by author)



## Elvis, We'll Remember

**You** by Ed Bonja. Elvis' official photographer brings you hundreds of photos, many before unpublished, along with stories of life in the Elvis business in this fabulous hardback volume. Price: **£23.95**



**Elvis in Paris** by Jean-Marie Pouzenc. This huge book, featuring more than 400 photos and documents, is the definitive guide to Elvis' trips to Paris. A truly

fabulous book and now in high demand due to its sold-out print runs. Price: **£24.95**

**Elvis Style.** In this informative book, journalist and writer Zoey Goto explores Elvis' unique style through his clothes, jewellery, cars and more. This book features many stunning photos. Price: **£21.95** (signed by author).



## Elvis Unlocked

by Dixie Locke Emmons. Memoirs of Elvis' first girlfriend. A tale of teenage love, of longing looks in church and how the 'innocent' Miss Locke contrived to 'bump into' Elvis at the Roller Rink sparking a relationship straight out of a fairytale...only this one was true.

Price: **£29.50 (£39.95 - signed)**



## Tombstone Tourist Tour

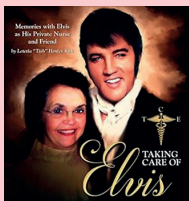
**Guidebook** by Mary Clark. A unique, and highly interesting, guide book to the final resting places of the family and friends of Elvis Presley. Lavishly illustrated with full colour photos, this book is another exclusive available only in the UK through Strictly Elvis. Price: **£19.95** (signed by author)

## Destined To Fly

by Sally A. Hoedel. The brand new book by the award winning author of Destined to Die Young tells the extraordinary story of Ron Strauss, Elvis' pilot from 1975-77. Never before told stories of an amazing life make this a must read. Price: **£27.95** (Signed by Author).



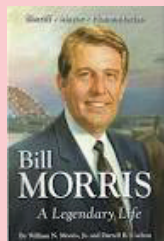
**Elvis Remembered** by Letetia 'Tish' Henley Kirk. The new book (2023) of beautiful personal recollections and photos from Elvis' nurse from 1968-77 (signed by author). Price: £25.95



**Taking Care of Elvis** by Letetia 'Tish' Henley Kirk. Elvis' private nurse shares stories on her time working with Elvis. Features dozens of fantastic photos

(signed by author). Price: £25.95

**Elvis, The Man in my Backyard** by Shirley Connell. A fascinating book told by one of Elvis' neighbours at Graceland. From visiting Elvis at home, to hanging out with him at the Fairgrounds and all-night movie showings, this book shows you the off-stage side of Elvis. Price: £24.95 (Signed by author)



**Bill Morris: A Legendary Life** by William N. Morris Jr. This autobiography is from one of Memphis' most legendary characters; Former Memphis Mayor, Sheriff and close friend of Elvis Presley. This book

is a lifetime of fantastic stories. Price £27.95 (Signed by author)

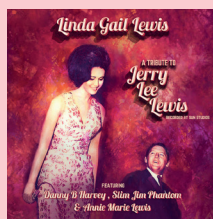
**The Imperials Are Back.** This exciting concert DVD showcases the incredible talents of the Imperials along with the Morriston Orpheus Male Voice Choir at the finale of their UK concert series bringing Elvis' music to some of the most illustrious venues in the country. Professionally filmed in 2017 in the magnificent surrounds of

Cheltenham, Town Hall, this DVD is an amazing record of a truly unique event. Price: £11.95

**Linda Gail Lewis a Tribute to Jerry Lee Lewis.** On

this brand new CD, Linda Gail pays tribute to her brother with amazing performances of 13

of his most well-known hits – all recorded at the legendary Sun Studio in Memphis. The album also features 5 bonus tracks too and all copies are signed by Linda Gail Lewis. Price: £16.95



**Strictly Elvis Notepads and Pens.**

For shopping lists, wish lists or just as a handy way to remember the dates of all of your Elvis events, these lovely notepads are a handy item around the home. And why not combine it with a stylish pen featuring the Strictly Elvis/ Elvis Travel Service logos? A lovely gift for yourself or a fellow fan. Price: £6.95

To order your items simply call us on **01473 621 564** or **07721 435 291** with your Credit or Debit card details or, if you prefer, via Paypal to **davidwade@strictlyelvis.net** and if you order more than one item then there's a special £1 per item discount.

Sending as a gift? We're more than happy to send items on if they're a present, and will include a small card to let the lucky recipient know who it is from. Just let us know the details at the time of ordering.

And once again, remember all of our prices include UK postage and packing – so the price you see is the price you pay, with nothing else added.



## DIRECT FROM GRACELAND - By Neil Cameron

The new multi-million pound exhibition space Arches London Bridge decided that when they opened, they were going to make their inaugural event a big one – and there's no bigger draw than Elvis!

'Direct From Graceland' is another chance to get up close to personal Elvis artefacts (over 400!) with cars, jumpsuits, on-stage and off-stage clothing, jewellery and so much more in this jam-packed display of a veritable treasure trove of items from the Graceland archives.

Amongst the iconic pieces there are some favourites which have previously been seen on these shores at the Elvis at the O2 exhibits but with many new artefacts (particularly wonderful, and poignant, are the personal items of Gladys and Lisa Marie) making their debut appearances in the UK – along with a real bonus for us Brits, an item that has never been on display anywhere else before!

'Direct From Graceland' is also offering a premium ticket, with the opportunity to handle, and have photos taken with, two iconic Elvis items from the 70's; his famous and much loved belt awarded after his run of sell-out shows in Las Vegas in 1969, along with a gold microphone also used for his engagements in the city that is synonymous with Elvis.

From the vulnerability of his early years in Tupelo to the raw talent of the 50's and the powerhouse of the silver screen all the way to the majesty of his 70's touring years, there are displays and items relating to all of the stages of Elvis' incredible life and career, including those that peek behind the public image shedding light on the private life of Elvis too. One particularly nice touch is the items dedicated to Elvis' ongoing legacy that continue to influence modern pop culture to this day.

Although we've been spoilt in the past with the aforementioned exhibits, at Arches London Bridge we now have an intimate space, allowing closer interaction with the numerous pieces on show. Great lighting means that you'll walk away with some great pictures as a memento (photography is actively encouraged) and adding even more to a visit, we were impressed with the number of video displays as you explore - all showing fabulous footage of 'our man'. For those wishing to, there's also a headset commentary that can be used.

Other stand-out set-pieces are the impressive immersive experience of looking at Elvis in concert through three huge video walls, and a room in which the Elvis Family are invited to write their messages to Elvis as with the wall at Graceland.

The Arches also boasts a well-stocked shop, along with a café where you can relax before and after taking in the exhibit and is a perfect place to catch-up with fellow fans and do what we all like doing best - talking Elvis.

The Elvis Family of the UK are once again being rewarded for flying the flag for Elvis with 'Direct From Graceland', let's support it and show that his endearing legacy is well looked after by this country.

'Direct From Graceland' runs until 25th February 2024 at The Arches, centrally located at London Bridge.

Tickets are available from [www.elvislondonbridge.co.uk](http://www.elvislondonbridge.co.uk)

See details within this issue, and on-line, regarding special Strictly Elvis events at the exhibit.





DIRECT FROM GRACELAND®

**ELVIS**™

STEP INSIDE  
THE LEGACY

[elvislondonbridge.co.uk](http://elvislondonbridge.co.uk)



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