

Strictly ELVIS UK

ELVIS
TRAVEL SERVICE

Newsletter No. 19
Winter 2017

Good Morning,

It seems simply ages since I last wrote an opening editorial for the Newsletter...probably because it is! Apologies for the delay in getting this issue out to you but having just about survived the busiest August thru November of my life (or so it seems) it's been a bit of a struggle to find the time to write anything. You'll see from various reports inside just how enjoyable the 40th Anniversary Tour and the Elvis Festival were, although for myself and the team they seem to have passed in a bit of a blur.



And no sooner were they over than people start asking 'What's next?' so now we're right back into planning mode, ready for 2018 and even looking further ahead to 2019. One thing is for sure – there's no diminishing in interest or demand for all things Elvis and 40 years after his passing which other performer could achieve that? Correct. None. Whilst most of that must be due to the sheer talent of the man...a 'phenomenon' (try to say that after a couple of pints!) in the true sense of the word, some of the credit must be taken by the fans themselves – not only for recognising this greatness but for their dogged determination to keep Elvis at the top – be it in sell-out concerts, in exhibitions, in recordings, on radio (constantly!), in books/magazines and in TV documentaries. And no-where is that support greater or more obvious than in the UK.

Once again the British were the largest overseas group at Graceland for the August anniversary and didn't we let them know it? Our Gala Night at the new Guest House at Graceland was tremendous – the Grand Ballroom was packed with some 600 fans from the UK and around the World, enjoying live entertainment from our own Rockin' Dave Riley, from Beale Street legend Brad Birkedahl and his 7-piece band, and an all-Elvis Disco from DJ Paul Downie.

What's not to like? At one time we were virtually besieged by big-name Elvis guests – so many that it might appear boastful for us to name them – plus senior management from EPE and from the hotel...all wanting to see for themselves what this 'Strictly Elvis Family' was all about. I don't think they could believe their eyes – it was like transporting our best nights at Vauxhall straight into Memphis. And they all thought it was magic. Well it was – Elvis Magic.

Didn't do all of us Brits any harm tho' and it's just one of the reasons why we in the UK had the Elvis at The O2 Exhibition last year and now have the Elvis on Tour Exhibition before anyone else. I don't think any country demonstrates its support for Elvis more than we do and so don't assume for a moment that 'the



powers that be' don't notice that – they do – which is why I keep bleating on about fans sticking together and ignoring the 'naysayers' that like to have a moan. As Elvis fans in the UK we've got it pretty good.

I'm now looking forward to a trip up to Scotland for The Elvis Touch's Birthday event at Prestwick – I'll miss not being in Memphis this January (first year I've missed in ages) but with the April Tour now 'Sold Out' I'll be there for that and we will certainly look to arranging other short luxury trips to The Guest House at Graceland in the future – the Thanksgiving one will probably be next. The August tour (details enclosed) promises to be brilliant with a direct British Airways flight to Nashville on a new 'Dreamliner' aircraft and a visit to Dollywood included. I hope you can join us on that. And the next Elvis Festival promises to be 'a right cracker'.

So much to do but this sure beats retirement!

T
Cheers for now
B

David J. Wade

DIARY UPDATE

EVERYBODY COME ABOARD

We might be the largest Elvis fan organisation outside of Graceland itself but we still regularly come across Elvis fans who haven't heard of us and therefore know nothing about our trips to Memphis (and beyond) or Bad Nauheim, our huge Elvis Festival, our events, competitions or what we do to help keep Elvis' legacy alive. Fair enough – there's a limit to the amount of publicity we can put out, but many of these people are missing out on so much of what comes with being an Elvis fan – especially those who might be lonely or have lost loved ones. The camaraderie engendered by what we do at Strictly has given many fans a new lease of life and has made many long-term friendships with the shared enjoyment of Elvis. If you know an Elvis fan who isn't (yet!) part of the Elvis 'family' tell them to contact us and we'll include them in our (completely free) mailings. You could be doing them a massive favour. They can visit us on our website: www.strictlyelvis.net, email us on enquiries@strictlyelvis.net or phone us on 01473 621 564.



ELVIS ON TOUR EXHIBITION

Unlike the 'Elvis at the O2' this new, smaller, exhibition chronicles how Elvis impacted popular culture around the world through his music, movies and personal style. Covering the years 1969 to 1977, the exhibition will feature a whole host of Elvis' iconic jumpsuits plus many items that were seen in the 1972 documentary, *Elvis on Tour*. Exhibition must end 4th February. Special Strictly Elvis Visits: Elvis' Pre-Birthday: Meet with the Strictly Crew as we celebrate Elvis' Birthday a day early on 7th January for an afternoon at the Elvis on Tour Exhibition. Admission pre-booked thru' Strictly on 01773 621 564 only £15 inclusive of an Elvis Birthday (cup) cake. Phone us for more details. Last Day Farewell: Join us in the late afternoon of the 4th February to be amongst the last to enjoy this superb Exhibition and to say goodbye to these iconic artefacts. Phone us or check our Website or Facebook page for details.

GRACELAND – LUXURY MINI BREAK

19th-24th April 2018

Our special Memphis Mini-break in April is now 'Sold Out. Watch for details of more Mini-breaks staying at the fabulous Guest House at Graceland including one for next Thanksgiving...as announced at the Elvis Festival.

ELVIS' 41ST ANNIVERSARY & MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET USA

7th – 20th August 2018

Details of yet another fascinating Elvis holiday are included in the centre of this Newsletter. Our journey of discovery takes us to Nashville, Dollywood, Memphis and Tupelo but this is a journey with a difference as we'll also be incorporating much of the history of Sun Records and the Million Dollar Quartet – Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and, of course, the most successful of the Sun stablemates...Elvis himself. As for Dolly, well she wasn't a MDQ member of course but who could blame us for wanting to have some fun at Dollywood.

ELVIS' 41ST ANNIVERSARY BAD NAUHEIM, GERMANY TOUR

16th – 20th August 2018

A glorious long-weekend in the beautiful spa town of Bad Nauheim where Elvis lived whilst stationed at the US Army Base in nearby Friedberg. Over this period each year the German Fan Club and the town's tourist office put on a wonderful Elvis event with concerts, classic car parades, movies, special guests and Elvis stalls and attractions. The Elvis Travel Service know the place better than anyone and include a very special tour of all the Elvis sights. Full details of this tour are enclosed with this Newsletter

ELVIS THAMES CRUISE

29th July 2018

Following the outstanding success of the past two year's Thames cruises, Elvis in Essex and Strictly Elvis are delighted to announce the third cruise – but this time on an even larger boat and with more entertainment on board. See enclosed flyer for more details.

2018 ELVIS FESTIVAL, GREAT YARMOUTH

8th – 15th September 2018

The best guests, the best line-up of bands, great all-Elvis disco's, a whole range of Elvis activities from a Gospel Service to a Fashion Show... Elvis events don't come any better than this. Details of our 2018 Elvis Festival at Vauxhall Holiday Park will be available shortly – phone us on 01473 621 564 to register for Advance Details of our programme and guests. This will be the biggest so far...in fact other than at Graceland itself it'll be the biggest true-to-Elvis week-long event in the world. Come and join the fun.

OTHER ACTIVITIES...

Strictly Elvis UK/Elvis Travel Service doesn't claim to have the monopoly on Elvis events and holidays (and nor would we want to have) and so in addition to the above there are numerous other Elvis 'happenings' being run by other organisations and independent Fan Clubs. Details of the Clubs that we are happy to recommend are shown on our Website together with details of their events. Also please keep an eye on our Facebook page (The Elvis Presley Fan Club Travel Service/Strictly Elvis) for regular updates of Elvis events.

FIND US ON...

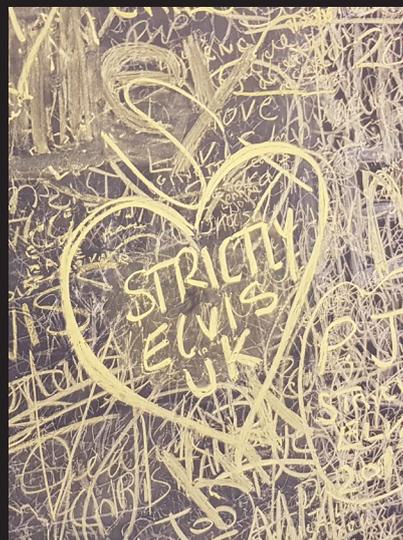


Facebook: The Elvis Presley Travel Service/Strictly Elvis.

OR ON...



Twitter: @ElvisTravel



On the chalkboard of Elvis' classroom in Humes High Memphis



PARADISE, HAWAII

BY SALLIE PHILLIPS

What better way to spend 3 weeks' holiday than in the USA celebrating everything Elvis with the Strictly Elvis family on the 40th Anniversary Tour – Tupelo, Memphis, Hawaii and San Francisco were on the itinerary. I was the youngest on this trip by far, being born over 20 years after his death, but his music is timeless and I regard him as forever cool.

Our first stop was Tupelo, Elvis' birthplace – the two room house built by his father. The state of the home is brilliant, and although none of the furniture is original, it is laid out how it would have been when Elvis was there, including the famous picture of a young Elvis with his parents – I even got a shirt with it on which I was pleased about. Elvis' church has been moved onto the birthplace grounds and we were able to experience a 1940s church service like Elvis would have done and see where he got much of his influence and confidence for performing from.

As part of our group trip, we had a disco on our last night in Tupelo and it was incredible to see so many Elvis fans in one place. Tupelo's tourist service and government were so welcoming and it was really obvious how proud they are to be the place where Elvis was born – they thank the Birthplace as being the main source of tourism for them. One of the best parts of our disco was when everyone got together and danced to 'An American Trilogy' with US flags – it is regarded as one of Elvis' most patriotic songs, something to behold.

Following Tupelo, Memphis was calling for Elvis week. The city goes crazy this one week in August. All clubs are playing Elvis music and everywhere you look there are Elvis fans. The main trip for those in Memphis is Graceland and the new Elvis Presley's Memphis Plaza with lots of museums for Elvis' articles. They have changed Graceland to make it look more like a house, particularly the racketball court, left the way it was the day he died. It becomes more poignant and almost a better tour because we see it as Elvis would have.

There were lots of other trips and events including a Gala at the new Guest House, shows at the new Soundstage (incredible, by the way, particularly a gospel concert by the Stamps Quartet and the Imperials), visiting Jerry Lee Lewis' ranch for the first time and spending our evenings on Beale Street, the home of rock and roll. Not forgetting of course, the Candlelight Vigil on August 15th and the concert with the local Philharmonic orchestra on the last night. The concert was amazing and the atmosphere was stunning – who else can sell out concerts for an album posthumously released 40 years after his death?



After the rush of Memphis, Hawaii was a welcome rest. The 3 days free of trips we spent on Waikiki Beach, sunbathing and swimming in the sea and generally relaxing. We did visit the Polynesian Cultural Center, learning about the Polynesian islands of Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand, Fiji and more. We even got the chance to visit the Pearl Harbor Memorial to the attack by the Japanese that bought the USA into WWII. They have built a memorial for the fallen over the wreck of the USS Arizona, and the water is so shallow you can see the wreck by looking over the side of the memorial. We even got to visit a local radio station to talk about Elvis and what big fans we are of him – yours truly talked for a while! Our last stop was San Francisco. We were a bit cautious about going here, as many people said it would be cold, yet we were lucky and had 3 really lovely days, apart from the fog over the Bay. The locals have nicknamed the month 'Fogust' it's so bad – we couldn't get a clear picture of the famous Golden Gate Bridge.

HAWAIIAN STYLE



While we were there, we visited Alcatraz Prison, which held prisoners such as Al Capone and Robert Stroud – ‘The Birdman of Alcatraz’. It’s famed for its cruelty, but it seemed like a nice place...for a prison. It turns out that the most notorious prisoners, Machine Gun Kelly and Capone were the nicest and well-behaved of the lot. Definitely worth a visit if you’re ever there.

There you have it, the Strictly Elvis UK/Elvis Travel Service 40th Anniversary Tour. I’d like to say a big thank you to the tour managers David Wade, Carol Pugh and the rest of the Crew for an amazing holiday. It just goes to show Elvis lives on in his fans and his legacy. I can’t wait to go back again someday!





ROLLIN' DOWN THE RIVER BY MIKE DAVIS

July 16th this year saw over 200 Elvis fans enjoy our second annual Elvis in Essex/Strictly Elvis Thames River Cruise.

The weather before we boarded was overcast but as we left Tower Pier out came the sun, back went the roof on the upper deck of our Mississippi stern wheeler and the voice of Elvis was booming down the Thames as played by our own Elvis DJ Andy Smith

The dance floor was soon full of smiling faces as one of the best Elvis summer events got underway, our craft was soon up to speed and heading under Tower Bridge towards Greenwich, seeing The 02 brought back many Elvis memories. At Greenwich we came about (old sea dog phrase, it means turned around) and headed back towards the City and on to Chelsea.

The bars on board the two decks were kept very busy serving up cooling drinks, many of our fans spent time on the stern (blunt end) sun deck enjoying the breeze and the warm sun. Strictly's Neil Cameron was soon around the boat with his tablet broadcasting to the world our wonderful on-board Elvis Party and interviewing some of the fans.

Celebrating her 18th Birthday on board was Olivia Taviani. We had decorated the boat accordingly prior to her arrival and she was suitably moved by it all.

She came with the Elvis Travel Service to Memphis in August for the rest of her parent's birthday giftquite some present!

It was great to see pedestrians on the footbridges and people on other boats waving and dancing to our wonderful music as we passed - this was particularly evident on the occasions we sailed under Tower Bridge.

Our four hour party ended where we started at Tower Pier, as we thanked our passengers for their support we had 100% feedback as to the fantastic time they had had and roll on next year.

Details of next year's cruise accompany this Newsletter



TRYIN' TO GET TO YOU

Each time we mail out the Newsletters we get dozens returned marked 'Moved Away'. This, of course, allows us to remove that old address from our Mailing List so that we don't go to the expense of sending future mailings there but it also means that we lose you...or rather, you lose us! So please remember to advise us of any change of address. As you know we make no charge whatsoever for you to be a member of the Strictly Elvis 'family' - we don't charge a Subscription and nor do we want to start (don't worry, we'll never do that) but in order to keep our costs down please help us by remembering to advise us of any change of address. Simply email us on enquiries@strictlyelvis.net or phone us on 01473 621 564

INC.
A TRIP TO...
DOLLYWOOD

ELVIS'
— 41ST —
ANNIVERSARY

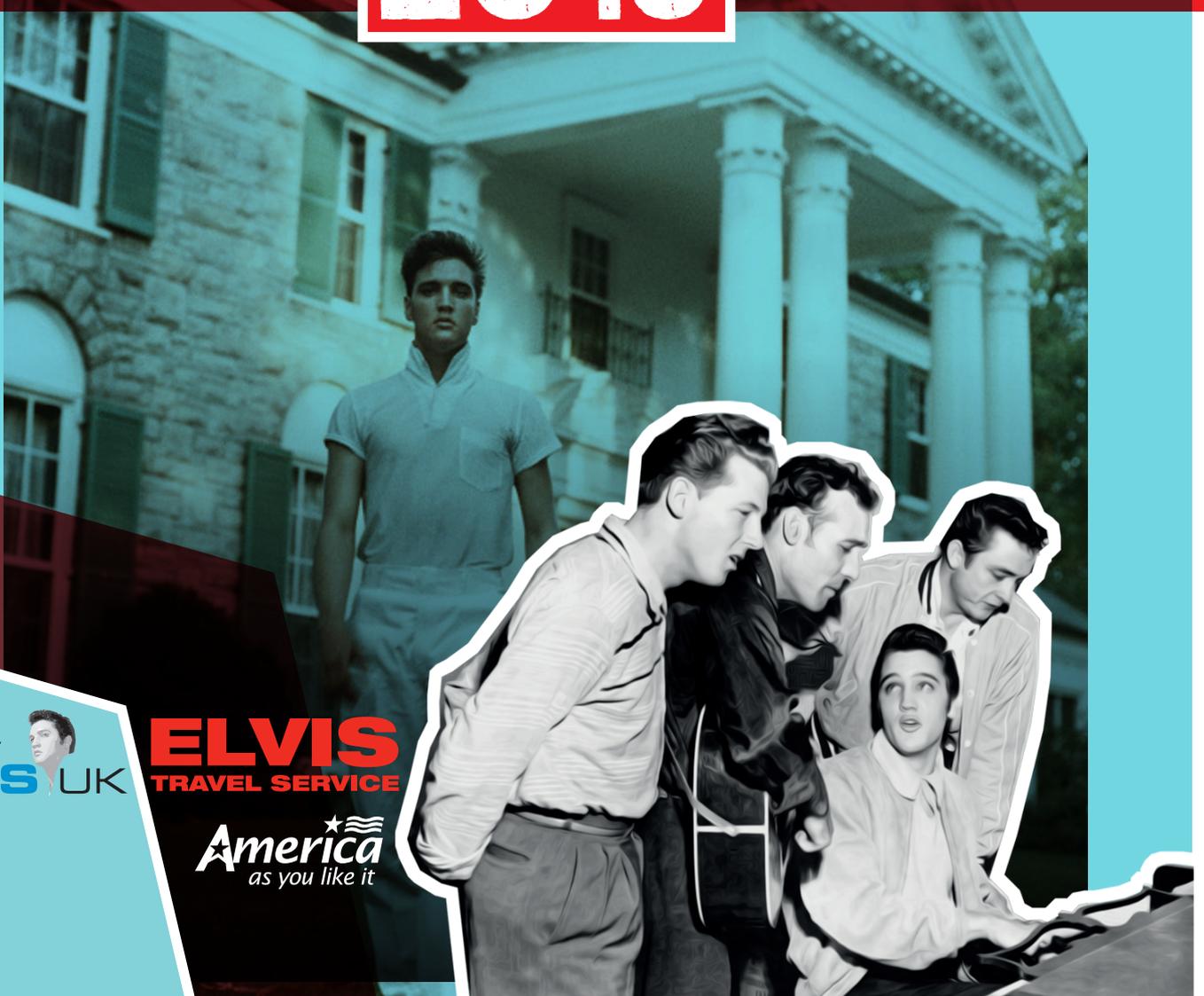
USA TOUR

• MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET TOUR •

NASHVILLE | MEMPHIS

**AUGUST
2018**

TUPELO + MUCH MORE



Strictly
ELVIS UK

ELVIS
TRAVEL SERVICE

America
as you like it



**AUGUST
2018**

Dollywood

Each year we try to make our annual Elvis Anniversary Tour more interesting and exciting by adding in different destinations or giving the tour a specific theme. For 2018 we're doing both by taking you to enjoy the thrills and fun of Dollywood but also featuring Elvis' Sun stablemates who made up the legendary Million Dollar Quartet. First of all we'll show you Nashville, Country Music Capital of the world and where you'll get to tour the Ryman Auditorium (formerly the Grand Ole Opry), the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Johnny Cash Museum and, of course, RCA's Studio B. You'll enjoy a drive through the Tennessee countryside for a visit to Dollywood and, on the way to Memphis we'll have visits to the Johnny Cash Ranch and the home of Carl Perkins two members of Sun's famous Million Dollar Quartet. Memphis brings us all the activities of Elvis Week with a tour of Elvis' beautiful Graceland mansion home, visits to the many exhibits including the car museum and aircraft plus we'll take you on an exciting journey of discovery throughout Memphis showing you the many places of Elvis-interest as well as the major sights such as Beale Street, the Pyramid, the Mississippi River and lots more.

Onward then to Tupelo but not before first visiting the house of the 4th member of the Million Dollar Quartet....Jerry Lee Lewis, where his son Jerry Lee Lewis III will give you a personal guided tour. Once in Tupelo we'll visit the Elvis Birthplace & Museum and tour many other Elvis sights and because this year we'll be staying at a lovely hotel in the heart of downtown you'll be able to explore the town at your leisure and you'll



soon understand why we say Tupelo is the friendliest place in America. So read on for our day-by-day itinerary and we hope you can join us on this journey of discovery – an Elvis (and Million Dollar Quartet) experience not to be missed.

Our Itinerary

Day 1 Tuesday 7th August

Early afternoon departure from Heathrow Airport for the direct British Airways 'Dreamliner' flight to Nashville, arriving in the early evening. Coach transfer to the hotel and remainder of the evening at leisure.

Day 2 Wednesday 8th August

Full day tour of Nashville incorporating visits to the Ryman Auditorium where Elvis appeared on the Grand Ole Opry radio show, the Country Music Hall of Fame where you can see Elvis' Gold Cadillac plus his plaque on the Wall of Fame, RCA's famous Studio B where so many of Elvis' (and others) hits were recorded. We'll pack a lot in but there's still ample time for some exploring and shopping as well (cowboy boots anyone?) and this evening why not join your Tour Managers for a visit to the world famous Wildhorse Saloon.



Day 3 Thursday 9th August

What a treat in store today as we head to the Smoky Mountain foothills to Pigeon Forge and Dollywood – one of the USA's best known and well-loved attractions. Filled with exciting thrill rides, shops, eating places and great entertainment the 150 acre park has a wonderfully friendly hillbilly feel to it.

Day 4 Friday 10th August

Morning visit to the Johnny Cash Museum in Nashville before we head out to see the Johnny Cash Ranch, and the new owner has reconstructed the home and office of Col Tom Parker which he purchased when the Madison property was redeveloped in early 2017. A fascinating visit, as will be our next stop – the former home of Carl Perkins in Jackson, Tennessee. Carl, known as the 'King of Rockabilly' wrote and had a hit with Blue Suede Shoes (before Elvis made it an even bigger success!) and was a major influence on many younger musicians including The Beatles. Onward then to Memphis where, after checking in to your hotel, the evening is free.

Day 5 Saturday 11th August

Graceland Day. Morning self-guided tour of the Graceland Mansion with the afternoon at leisure at Elvis Presley's Memphis entertainment complex where there are attractions to visit (included in the holiday price) and shops and restaurants to enjoy. Evening at leisure. Throughout Elvis Week EPE will have arranged concerts and guest interviews for you to enjoy.

Over £250 worth of Admissions included in the holiday price!

Day 6 Sunday 12th August

Today we have a full day Elvis' Memphis Sightseeing tour during which we'll show you some of his homes, his school, Sun Studio where he and his Million Dollar Quartet colleagues recorded, places where he shopped, ate, worshipped, performed and we'll even take you over the Stateline into Mississippi to see the Circle G Ranch. A long day today but packed with interest and photo opportunities and we know you'll love it.

Days 7 through Day 9 Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th August

Three more days at leisure in Memphis. We'll have an optional Mississippi Cruise, a shopping excursion to a huge Outlet Mall and in between things happening at the Graceland complex you'll have time to visit the Stax, Rock'n'Soul, Cotton or Civil Rights Museums, to join your Tour Managers for a visit to Beale Street (surely the greatest music street in the world), to laze by the hotel's pool or to sample some of the great barbeque food for which Memphis is so famous....lip-smackingly good!

Day 10 Thursday 16th August

We head first to the Jerry Lee Lewis Ranch deep in the Mississippi countryside for a guided tour of the house that overlooks a pretty lake. As you walk through the house you'll see Jerry Lee Lewis' many awards, his stage clothes, his piano upon which he had written so many hits and you'll also experience a star's family home with its comfortable and warm feeling. Parked in the garage will be his Rolls-Royce and you'll have ample time to take photos of that and the famous 'Piano Gates' before we continue our drive to Tupelo.

Day 11 Friday 17th August

We start the day with a guided tour of the Elvis sights of Tupelo, on which we'll show you the schools that he attended, where he made his first public appearance, his first radio performance, where his gospel influence came from, where his mother Gladys worked and where she purchased the guitar for his 11th Birthday. Those and lots more sights to see before we arrive at the Birthplace itself – the humble home that gave us a legend. On the site there's a fascinating Elvis Museum, the First Assembly of God Church where he and his parents worshipped and a Memorial Chapel built in his memory. An awesome day. Evening at leisure.

Day 12 Saturday 18th August

Full day free. What's it to be? A chance to explore downtown Tupelo, to visit the superb car museum, shop, just as the Presley's did, at Tupelo Hardware or Reeds Department Store (where there's a great photo of Gladys and her Tupelo Garment Factory co-workers on the wall). And we couldn't have a last night without a bit of a party could we?

Day 13 Sunday 19th August

Morning departure for Verona where we'll show you where Vernon and Gladys got married and Tuscaloosa where Elvis appeared in 1971 and 1975; before heading on to Atlanta Airport for the evening's overnight flight to the UK

Day 14 Monday 20th August

Morning arrival into the Heathrow* Airport.



Our Hotels

Nashville - Clarion Hotel Downtown

Conveniently close to all the major sights. This recently renovated hotel has an indoor pool and fitness centre. All rooms also have a microwave and fridge. A complimentary breakfast is served in the hotel and there is a wide choice of restaurants and bars within walking distance.



Memphis - The Guest House at Graceland

An exciting new addition to the Graceland complex and replacing the old Heartbreak Hotel with a 450 room luxury class property that will be an experience in itself. Top class all en-suite rooms, two restaurants and a bar, swimming pool, sundeck and a theatre. Breakfast is not included.



Comfort Inn - Downtown

This modern hotel overlooks the Mississippi River in the heart of downtown Memphis. Convenient for the sights, museums, and within walking distance of Beale Street, this excellent hotel offers handsomely furnished en suite rooms, a small lounge, exercise room, a rooftop swimming pool and sun deck. Breakfast is included.



Tupelo - Hilton Garden Inn

Located in the heart of Tupelo's historic Downtown district and opposite the old Fairgrounds this modern hotel with its attractive decor offers all the comforts that you'd expect from a Hilton hotel. The hotel has a restaurant and bar, a fitness centre and an indoor pool and spa. Breakfast is included.



Information

HOLIDAY PRICES

All prices are in £'s per adult - child prices on request.

Staying at the Comfort Inn in Memphis

Single	Twin	Triple	Quad
£3798	£3048	£2798	£2678

Staying at The Guest House in Memphis

Single	Twin	Triple	Quad
£4398	£3348	£3048	2878

If travelling alone but willing to share please contact us for details of our 'Room-mate' service.

INCLUDED IN THE HOLIDAY COST

The tour price is inclusive of all the following:-

- *Scheduled economy class flights inc. taxes and security charges.
 - *12 nights hotel accommodation inc. taxes and breakfasts where shown.
 - *All coaching/Shuttle Bus Service as per Itinerary.
 - *Guided sightseeing tours of Nashville, Memphis and Tupelo.
 - *The full day Excursion to Dollywood.
 - *A Tour Pass for Graceland including the Mansion tour and admission to the Exhibits and Aircraft.
 - *Admission to the Ryman Auditorium, Country Music Hall of Fame, Studio B, Johnny Cash Museum, Johnny Cash Ranch, Carl Perkins home, Sun Studio, Lauderdale Courts Apartment, Jerry Lee Lewis' Ranch, and the Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum.
 - *Lunch at the Arcade Restaurant.
 - *Driver gratuities.
 - *The services of an experienced Tour Manager.
- Items not included are:- drinks and meals other than those specified above, travel insurance, any optional excursions and personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls etc.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is mandatory that all passengers have sufficient travel insurance. Please call America as you like it on 020 8742 8299 who will be pleased to arrange cover for you. Cover is not effective until the premium has been paid and your application approved by the insurers. If you are relying on travel insurance provided by your bank or credit card provider as part of their service please check that their cover is sufficient, in particular with regard to cancellation charges.

FLIGHTS AND TIMINGS

The flights will be in economy class on British Airways direct flights from and to London's Heathrow Airport. Please contact us for a price from other UK airports. Flight times will be confirmed on your Confirmation-Invoice although these are subject to change. The baggage allowance is 50lbs (23kgs) per person.

EXCHANGE RATES

The tour price is based at the currency exchange rate at the time of costing this holiday - £1. Sterling being equal to \$1.26 US Dollars.

HEALTH

No vaccinations or inoculations are currently required for British Subjects. The Department of Health produces the Health Advice for Travellers booklet (T) which is available from your local Post Office or by telephoning 0800 555 777 free of charge.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

A full Electronic Passport (e-Passport) issued by a member state of the European Union and valid for at least 6 months after the date of return to the UK is required. Visas are not required by the majority of British Citizens travelling on a UK Passport, however we recommend you check your eligibility at <https://uk.usembassy.gov/esta/>. UK Passport Holders should ensure that they have completed the online Visa Waiver Form (ESTA) at <https://esta.cpb.dhs.gov/> at least 72hrs before the date of travel. The charge for an ESTA is currently \$14 per person and can be paid using most debit/credit Cards. Without a valid ESTA you would be denied boarding by the airline. The registration is then valid for 2 Years or until the expiry of your passport (whichever is the sooner). If you do not have access to the ESTA website then the Elvis Travel Service are happy to do this for you. Please contact them on 01473 621 564 and have your UK passport details available. Holders of all other passports should consult the US Embassy prior to booking for visa requirements.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

The weather in August is usually hot. Temperatures range between the high 70's and low 90's Fahrenheit so take lightweight clothing with a comfortable pair of walking shoes or trainers for sightseeing. Take a light jacket or thin sweater tho' as the air-conditioning in some restaurants can feel very cold.

PAYMENT & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A payment of £500 per person deposit is payable upon booking. Upon receipt of your deposit (and obviously subject to places being available) you will be sent a Confirmation-Invoice showing the balance due. A further payment of £1000 will be required no later than 1st March 2018. 1st June 2018 you will be sent your Travel Wallet containing your e-tickets, baggage tags, a souvenir lanyard/tour pass and final itinerary and joining instructions.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

We are pleased to accept payment by credit or debit card for all, or part, of your holiday cost. Please complete the appropriate box on the Reservation Form.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES

If you have any queries regarding the holiday detailed in this brochure please don't hesitate to phone the Elvis Travel Service on 01473 621 564 or "America as you like it" on 020 8742 8299. Telephone bookings can be made but these are only provisional and must be confirmed with a completed Reservation Form within 5 working days.

Strictly
ELVIS UK

ELVIS
TRAVEL SERVICE

America
as you like it





TENNESSEE

KARATE INSTITUTE BY STEVEN WARD



Most people would know – even those who aren't die-hard fans of Elvis – that the beloved singer loved his karate. He was a Black Belt and was often seen practising his moves on stage, on the film set and at home with his Memphis Mafia friends – many of whom were also karate enthusiasts.

In fact, Elvis' love for karate was so great that in 1974 he co-founded the Tennessee Karate Institute (TKI) with local karate expert Patrick Wrenn, Bill 'Super-foot' Wallace and personal bodyguard Red West. They wanted to make karate open to everyone and the Institute was a popular place in Memphis during those last few years of Elvis' life. It also appeared in Elvis' movie 'The Gladiators' and was famously featured in the docufilm Elvis on Tour.

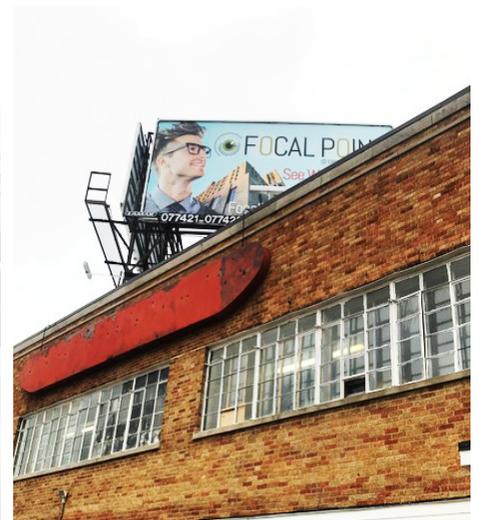
Sadly, after Elvis died in 1977, interest waned and in 1978 the TKI closed its doors for the last time...until, that is, Saturday 4th November 2017 when, still in the same location on Overton Park Avenue and after 39 years, it re-opened. This may be due, in part, to the massive redevelopment of the Sears Building and its surroundings; a multi-million dollar regeneration project that is transforming the area providing housing, offices, schools, a hospital, shops and restaurants – a move that is certain to attract many people to the area and, hopefully, into karate.

At the Grand Opening Patrick Wrenn introduced Kim Davis and two of her triplets, Brandon and

Dylan. Kim was married to Elvis' life-long friend and bodyguard Richard Davis and he was also a karate Black Belt. The boys, now 15 years, have followed in their father's footsteps to become black belts also – continuing Richard's and Elvis' karate legacy and the whole family couldn't be happier with the opening of the TKI. Also present at the Opening was David Adams who spoke fondly of the Institute. He was a former marine who practiced karate at the TKI in the 70's but became homeless. One day Bill Wallace found him sitting on the steps of the Institute and offered him a place to stay until he got back on his feet – a gesture that Adams has never forgotten.

Patrick Wrenn, known in the karate world as 'The Viper' is a world champion karate expert and he has also set the World Record of breaking one mile of wooden boards with his bare hands in just 45 minutes – an incredible feat of strength and karate expertise. He spoke about life in the 70's and about his plans for TKI's future.

Anyone can sign up to learn karate – young or old... the doors of the new Tennessee Karate Institute are open for anyone interested in following in Elvis' footsteps at a location that is swathed in the rich history and stories of one of karate's most famous Black Belts – the King himself. And yet another valuable piece of Elvis' heritage is saved.



ELVIS FESTIVAL 2017 BY NEIL CAMERON



If there is one event that sums up the bond between Elvis fans, and emphasises the ethos of what we do here at Strictly Elvis then it's our Elvis Festival. Our annual 'family get together' to celebrate the life and legacy of Elvis is now in its 37th year, and despite coming so soon after our huge tour to the USA, over 1,500 fans were in attendance.

Friday saw the Strictly Elvis crew arriving at our home for the week - the 5 star Vauxhall Holiday Park in Great Yarmouth. As soon as we stepped foot on the site we could see many positive changes which the park is undergoing as part of a massive upgrade. This has always been one of the best holiday parks in the country but still manages to get better every year. The Elvis family started arriving early on Saturday from all over the country to be part of our great week long celebration, and after a smooth check-in, the bar was soon filling up with everyone meeting old friends and enjoying the Elvis videos we had playing.

After the usual welcome to the week on Saturday evening, we kicked off in party style with our first band, Gregg G and his Crazy Gang, who soon had the dance floor packed. This year's selection of live acts included The Jets, Memphis Lee and the Creepers, Mark Keeley's Good Rockin' Tonight, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Darrel Higham and the Enforcers amongst many others...a great line-up.

We started off each morning with our in-house Elvis Radio and TV channels - with the dynamic duo of Mark Monaghan and Steve Bloomfield who entertained us with music, requests and madcap humour.

Sunday also saw our now traditional Elvis Gospel service, led by the Reverend Derek Aldridge. This inspirational but light hearted service has been a fan favourite at the Festival, as Rev Derek gave us some amusing thoughts and anecdotes along with some of Elvis' best gospel recordings.

As usual we had some 'Elvis Guests' join us for the week and we had arguably the best ever line-up this year, with three stars flying over from the USA to give us some very interesting and unique interviews; Dick Grob, Charles Stone and Greg McDonald.

Dick spoke of his time as head of Elvis' security and job of protecting Elvis both on the road and at home at Graceland. Always a fascinating speaker, he gave us an insight into the crazy schedule of looking after Elvis and spoke with real love for his friend. And both Charles Stone and Greg McDonald gave fascinating talks relating to their time working for Colonel Tom Parker. Having been there and seen firsthand what really happened, they busted many of the myths that surround the business and personal dealings between Elvis and the Colonel. They talked candidly and gave us some revelations and a more favourable take on Elvis' infamous manager.

Greg, who has forged a career as a major figure in worldwide media projects, gave us a world exclusive with the first public airing of an Elvis hologram that his company has been working on. It's just the kind of special 'happening' that you only get at the Elvis Festival!

All three of our guests said they felt that it was the best Elvis event that they'd ever attended. Each evening they joined us to watch the bands, talk and have photographs taken. Nothing was too much trouble for these guys and they loved being part of our Elvis Family.

Despite having a few days of blustery, wet weather - the rain held off and we had a great afternoon at our Mexican Fiesta. There was a tasty BBQ and live music from the 'Human Jukebox' - Rockin' Dave Riley.





Elsewhere during the week we had our huge Elvis Marketplace, an Elvis shop from our friends at the Elvis Shop London, an Elvis museum courtesy of Mark Witherington of the Elvis Fan Club of Scarborough plus lots of great and rare big screen Elvis footage. For those who wanted to be more active we had quizzes and games each afternoon as well as various sports competitions.

And then each evening we partied until late with an all Elvis disco, including our TV and Gold and Silver Fancy Dress nights. A big thank you to all who joined in there were some truly amazing costumes. For those who wanted to party even later – we carried on in the V-Lounge with an alternative Rock and Roll disco each night until the wee small hours.



This may have been our best Festival yet – and a very special way to commemorate this 40th Anniversary Year. The event just keeps getting bigger and better and we'll be back in 2018, at our superb home of Vauxhall Holiday Park, to do it all again.

Sweet Charity

From the well over £1000 raised from the Raffle and Auction at the Elvis Festival at Vauxhall we have already passed £100 to the Wanderers Haven Animal Sanctuary, £200 to The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, £270 to the National Holiday Fund for Sick Children, £200 for Cancer Research UK, £100 for Help for Heroes and the remainder is to be donated to the Alzheimer's Society.



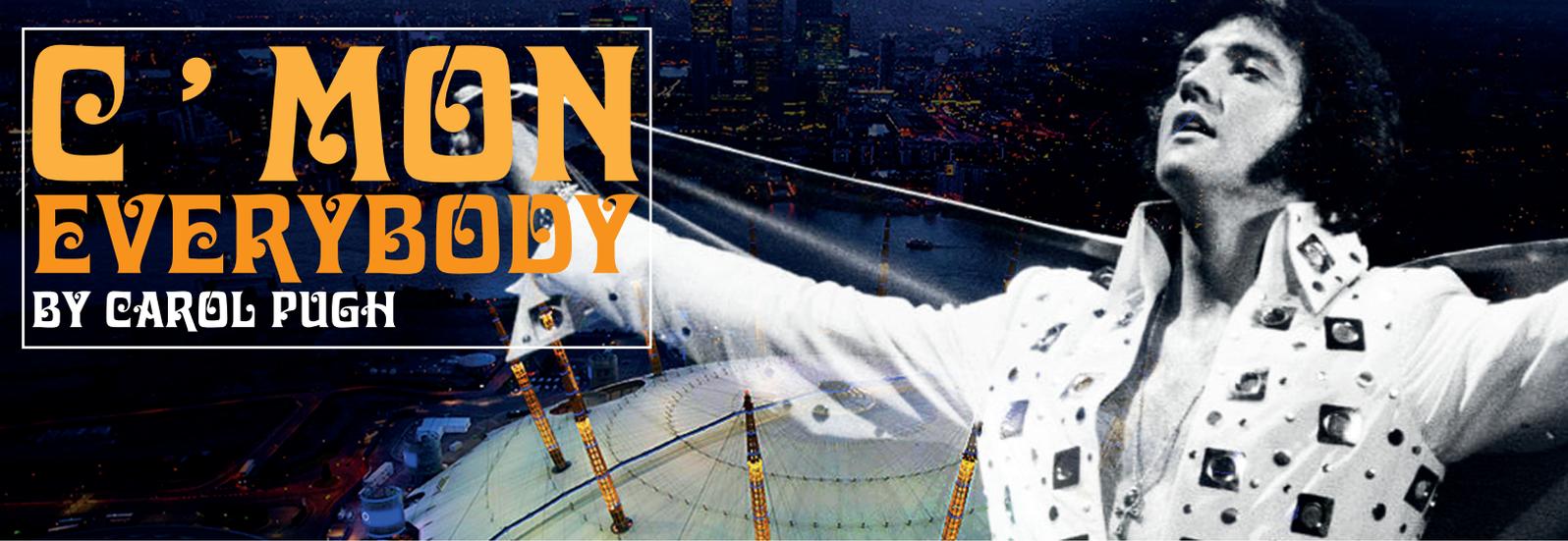
Elvis around the UK

Over the next few issues Designer Yaz will be re-vamping the Newsletter to hopefully make it even more attractive and to find space for more items. As the list of Independent Elvis Fan Clubs is on our Website (www.strictlyelvis.net) together with events that they offer (which are also publicised by Strictly on our Social Media sites) we felt that there was no need for duplication but we might change our minds on that. In the meantime all Independent Clubs are asked to let us know of all event details so that we may help 'spread the word'



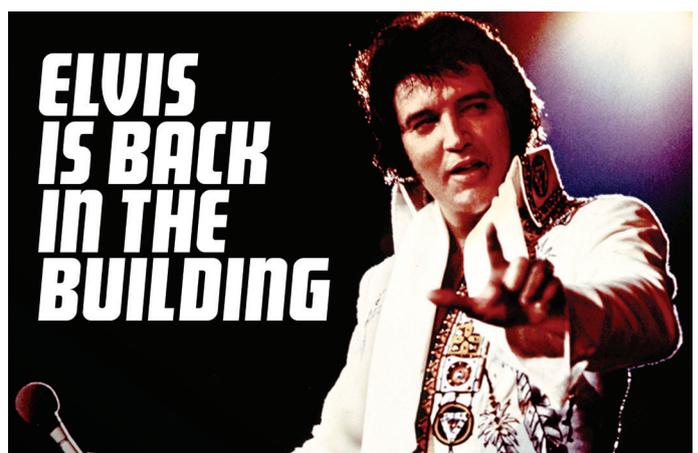
C' MON EVERYBODY

BY CAROL PUGH



Due to the overwhelming success of the Elvis at The O2 Exhibition several other countries had shown serious interest in hosting a similar event but what many of those other countries didn't have was the rock solid loyal Elvis fan base that we have here in the UK, you only have to look at the sell out Elvis/RPO concerts of last year and the number of British fans in Memphis this August to evidence that. Therefore despite other countries wanting the new exhibition London won it back, we knew that the format had to be different as opposed to a general exhibition and this time it needed to be specialised and 'Elvis' touring years of 1969-1977' was an obvious choice. The new exhibition that opened on 4th November houses 26 jumpsuits plus various stage worn outfits, belts, guitars, sunglasses and jewellery. There are also unseen pieces of documentation and paperwork, each one allowing us to understand the planning, workings, security and organisation of the tours. Many items displayed have never been seen by the public before - not even at Graceland. The visuals, film footage and specially recorded interviews only help but to enhance the whole experience. This time there are two separate exhibitions available side by side with Elvis in one and Prince in the other, this is because the company holding the majority stake in EPE also own the rights to Prince, Mohammed Ali and Marilyn Monroe. I personally would have preferred to see a Marilyn Monroe exhibit (as, no doubt, would Mr Wade!) next door as I think that would have been an excellent fit but hey what do I know? Well what I do know is that the exhibition is truly outstanding, a must see for any Elvis fan, showcasing the mighty raw talent of our man on stage. So a very big thank you to you guys, the UK Elvis fan base who, once more, has flown the flag and demonstrated that Elvis' legacy is safe in our hands. The exhibit must close 4th February.

Tickets can be purchased at www.elvisontourexhibition.com
www.theo2.co.uk/do-more-at-the-o2/elvis-on-tour
or call AXS on 0844 856 0202
For group tickets (of 10 or more) phone Hospitality Line on 0208 295 8600 or email sales@hospitalityline.co.uk
See Diary Update regarding special Strictly Elvis UK group visits.



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