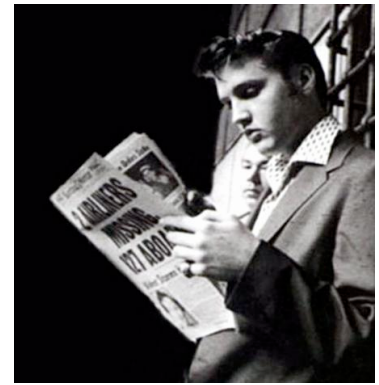


# Have you heard the NEWS



*"There's Good Rocking Tonight"*

Newsletter for members of the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club, Elvis-Aberdeen

## UNITED SERVICES CLUB CLOSING

It has just come to our attention in the last couple of days that Elvis-Aberdeen's monthly venue is to close in October. This is sad news indeed and gives us some work to do to try and source an alternative location.

Therefore if anyone knows of any venues available, or has any ideas at all, please do not hesitate to contact us as we aim to find an alternative location as soon as possible!  
Thanks in advance, Elvis Aberdeen

## John Stephen's USA Trip Continues at Sun Studios...

Marion Keisker's typewriter sat on the basic wooden desk in the front office of Sun Studio, exactly where it had been the day that a young Elvis Aaron Presley had arrived, breathlessly, to make his first recording, and I was standing in the same office, in the same spot where Elvis had stood all those years ago; it was a moving moment indeed....

The Memphis day had dawned overcast and cold, and we Scots in the party should have been used to these temperatures, but, when one travels to the southern states of North America, one expects a little warmth, even in March and April. However, the weather and the temperature were of no consequence to us on this day of days, as we were on our way to visit Graceland, the home of the King, and the sense of anticipation eclipsed everything else.

A short, early morning stroll (Not the dance!) was followed by breakfast in our hotel, before our party gathered in the foyer to await the arrival of our coach. Our driver, Kevin, a native black American, was a Harley Davidson owner and he and I had had plenty in common to speak about as he had expertly driven us from Atlanta to Memphis via New Orleans and other interesting points in between. He was never late, and so it proved that morning, and we were glad, as we had a long, and absorbing day in front of us.

Our tour guide, Julie, an Englishwoman, who was a veritable mine of information, had kept us well informed on the trip so far, and as we all boarded the bus, she told us we would be stopping at a few definitive sites before we reached Graceland, starting with the Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated. It was a humbling experience to see, parked in the same way they had been when the deed was done, the cars in which he and his entourage had been touring the States.

Near the motel a small protest point has been set up to continue to highlight the plight of disadvantaged poor people in the US. This has been looked after continually for many years by the same intelligent and articulate black woman who spoke to us and gratefully accepted our small donations to her civil rights campaign.

**continued overleaf**

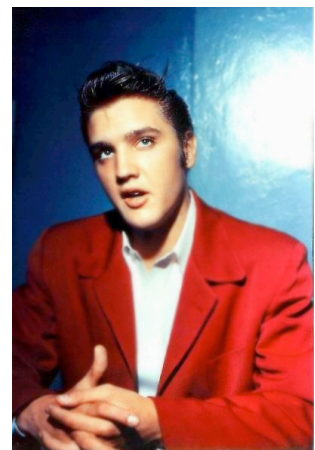
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## Rock n'Roll Night

Garry and his team will again be hosting a Rock n'Roll Night at United Services Club on Friday 15th July.

Remember to turn up for a great night's entertainment as the last one was superb.

See you all there!



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**Continued from Page 1**

Following that visit, we stopped at a statue of Elvis just off Beale Street for a photograph session, moving on to a new tourist centre near the so called "Dolly Parton" bridge over the Mississippi. The "center", which was a treasure trove of useful and informative booklets and leaflets, was dominated by large statues of BB King and, of course, Elvis, in a pose which the female members of the party found particularly impressive, engendering much clicking of shutters, before climbing back on the bus to head for Union Avenue, passing the Gibson guitar factory on the way.

The famous Gibson guitar model and neon sign over the door greeted us as we at last pulled up at Sun Studio, the ancestral home of the Memphis Recording Service where the legendary Sam Phillips had first seen the potential in the young singer from Mississippi. Some of us in the party made the short walk along the street to have our photos taken under the painted "Heartbreak Hotel" sign on the original brick building, before returning to the front door of the studio. It was a good way to gather our thoughts before entering the unprepossessing reception area/front shop of this iconic place. We browsed the extensive range of souvenirs and clothing while waiting for our pre arranged tour to begin.

The guide who would take us round the Studio was a bespectacled, bearded young American graduate who positively glowed with enthusiasm and who, in that typical fast talking Stateside way reeled off facts and figures about the building and the famous stars who had graced it's portals. A narrow wood lined stairway took us up to the display room where old mechanical and analogue recording machines were located along walls lined with glass fronted display cabinets containing priceless musical instruments, memorabilia and photographs from the days of black blues music of the early 50s and through the exciting period when rock'n'roll exploded on to the world. Artistes featured included the first group to record at the Sun Record Company, Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats, Howlin' Wolf, Junior Parker and BB King, through to Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison, all deservedly lauded giants of the music world in their own right. Over the entire scene though, was the ongoing influence of the King himself, and the guide, knowing that most visitors wanted to know as much as possible about Elvis, expertly wove snippets about him and samples of his music into the dialogue and tour agenda.

All this was so interesting, and would have justified hours of browsing, but time was short and we had so much to pack into this day, so we made our way downstairs again, through the aforementioned front office and into the actual recording studio where it had all happened. It was another defining moment when we were led in to be confronted with a drum set, guitars and microphones, set up just the way they would have been when Elvis, Scotty Moore and Bill Black started "fooling around" with an impromptu arrangement of an old country number, paving the way to global superstardom for the boy from nowhere....

An X painted on the floor marked the actual spot where Elvis had stood when he made his first record all those years ago and, along with the other avid Elvis fans in the party, I took my turn to stand in the same place, awestruck, while absorbing the ambience of this fabled room. Listening to the man's distinctive tones reverberate from the speakers, bouncing off the same acoustic wall and ceiling tiles which had helped provide the canvas for "That's alright Mama", "Tryin' to get to you" and the other classics he had recorded here, it was impossible not to be overcome with emotion, and we had still not reached Graceland ...

**John Stephen, Dyce, Aberdeen**

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**Next Dance: Friday 1st July**