



**On top of the World Trade Centre  
March 2001**

As part of my plan to spend as much time in New York as possible, Andrew and I went to the Black Party in March, held at the famous Roseland Ballroom where we met up with friends Bobby and 'Earsnot' (the graffiti artist). We were joined by Terry from Gay Times when we also took a booth at the New York



L&G Business Exhibition to promote our publications and make new contacts. Andrew, the vegetarian, managed to eat half a Steak, the size of a washing-up bowl!

During the summer it got so hot that Hammy decided to install an inflatable pool in his new townhouse in Royal Victoria Dock. Never one



to be outdone, Woolworths helped me transform my picturesque patio into a scene from Moby Dick!

It was great to get a flying visit from Sydney and his friend Olin from Washington again, after so many

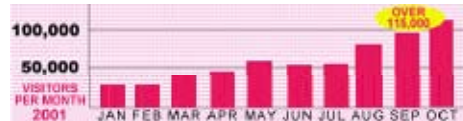


years!

Of course we were all deeply affected by the terrorist attacks of 11 September, with Andrew and I recalling the pictures of us at the top of the WTC on a brilliant sunny day back in March. The views were spectacular and, because it is difficult to tell from street level, many people didn't realise that the twin towers were almost twice as tall as everything around them.

A return visit to NYC was needed and thankfully all my friends are OK, however the atmosphere in the City is changing - having gone through denial, grief and anger, everyone was in a sexy mood when I arrived!!

Anyway, have laptop: will travel, and I can now keep the GAY to Z up-to-date wherever



I am. It has gone from strength to strength and in October we got over 100,000 individual visitors for the first time, and in November over 1.3 million page impressions. This in turn means that our advertising has not suffered yet, with hotels and videos selling particularly well. I have sold my software to a similar site: [www.theadult-guidetolondon.co.uk](http://www.theadult-guidetolondon.co.uk).

I have also been appointed as part-time administrator of the Gay Business Association which is a useful income.

The Coote family seem to be fine, with mum and dad renovating their home with a new conservatory and two Charlie Dimmock water features in the garden. We all enjoyed a successful 'Coote Ceildh' party at St. Cuthbert's to celebrate several



birthdays and anniversaries all in one go.

I suffered two bold burglaries by the same people when we think they put a hand through the letterbox

which meant I had to rebuild the front door, and it is now painted bright red. The culprits were captured and I had my passport returned, but not my address book!



Tony and Pip have added a third daughter, Toni, to form 'The Pips'.

I have now converted my spare room into 'Kennington B&B' and am full through to January. At £30 a night its a bargain. While in New York

I stayed with a new friend, Allan, who is also offering his spare room in Queens as B&B. I plan to go back to NYC again in March for another Black Party and, if I can get enough Viagra, to hook up with Earsnot again!

The world is a different place, but for me it just means you have to enjoy everything while you can...and while air travel is cheap.....

**Wishing you a peaceful New Year**



Me at The Lure, NYC