

COOTE NEWS 2002

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2002 has been the usual mixture of business and pleasure, and I have managed to get to New York twice - for the *Black Party* and the *Gay Erotica Show* - and make them tax-deductable! It has also been a year of Special Birthdays!

The highlight of the year for me was having Mum and Dad come and stay with me in London for a few days, and going on a route-march from Tower Bridge (where we had lunch with Clive James), via Southwark Cathedral, the Globe Theatre, the Millenium Bridge, until rain stopped play at the Tate Modern, and we finished off with a very peculiar show at the National Theatre! Mum also met the Duke of Edinburgh and appeared on the front page of *The News*. The Coote Clan are all well.



Mum and Dad took advantage of the new and extravagant facilities of Kennington B&B. I am letting out my spare room to passing strangers and it is proving to be very popular. Some weeks I managed to double-book and ended up sleeping on the couch. I am now getting repeat bookings, and have made loads of new friends including Che and Jeffrey from California who had a suitcase full of vitamins!

I managed to see Sidney and Olin in Washington before the snipers appeared, and Hammy and I 'did' Berlin (seen right with the latest Capuccino machines).

My 'personal assistant' Jim has been holding the fort while I'm away, and has been helping me on the *GAY to Z Directory* by adding over 1,000 new entries this year, and well over 2,000 changes. The web site was used by 250,000 visitors in October - double last year!

I joined Ron and Andrew's Motorcycle gang when Tony got a new bike and gave me his old Honda



Loads of **special birthdays**, including three 50ths: Dave Rea (can you spot the faces in this Hospital Radio picture from about 1972?); Junior Charles in Paris (I had my own Belly Dancer in a Turkish restaurant); Roy Whitehouse in Portugal (that's me working on my laptop by the pool - and Mark & Roy receiving a 'military' send-off), and John 'Sgt. Pepper' Tweddell's 60th at the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth. Andrew went as a G.I. and ended up putting pencil seams up all the girls legs because he didn't have any Nylons! - I'm 50 next January!

