



5 take it ast lt has been one long

party this year with so many of my contemporaries celebrating their half-century recently. Congrats to those who made it, and we remember fondly those who did not.

My own celebrations involved a 'Murder on the Orient Express' journey (courtesy of The Watercress Line steam railway complete with Hercule Poirot to

solve the mystery).

My family bought me a helicopter trip over London, and you can see some of the panoramic pix at

www.StephenCoote.co.uk

Then Andrew and I took mum to New York, and our view across The Hudson River, from friend Roberto's 29th floor apartment in Jersey City, showed us US Navy frigates protecting the Empire State Building on the day we invaded Iraq! Mum enjoyed the shopping (if you've seen 'Sex and the City' you'll get the idea...) while Andrew and I went to The Black Party (sex, drugs & rock'n'roll).

Another GAY to Z Directory got published in the summer and my NYC artist friend Kunie helped me give them away. Meanwhile the web

site has continued to grow in terms of visitors, listings, ad sales and commissions. We now supply listings to the GLA, Gay Times, and others.

All this success encouraged me to loose some weight and at Carol & Bob's suggestion I tried a modified Atkins diet and lost 50lb this summer. This has given me a new lease of life, and I had a 'romantic' weekend at Junior's in Paris with Andrew, and a November NYC trip with Bobby and Ralph.

My family are all well, and looking forward to Christmas even though it is becoming difficult to get us all together in one house. Mum and Dad now have nine grandchildren.....

Happy New Year

