



Clarence Pier, August 2004
Ollie, Sarah, Steve, Ted, Ralph and Peter

Hi Tom

2004 was an exhausting year and one where, if I'm honest, I've spread myself a bit thin (thin?) – so next year's resolution is to say 'no' more often!!

After a gastronomic weekend with Lyn and Terry and ex-colleagues from IBM days in Le Touquet, I went to the Black Party in NYC and hooked up with



Ralph, an artist from Newark who painted a souvenir of the party which is now hanging on my lounge wall. Took a quick trip to Toronto to meet Alison and her fun family, and huge mansion in the snow. I nearly broke my neck ice skating.

Ralph and Andrew joined me in Berlin for the Easter leather weekend – 500 men in leather singing 'Que Sera' was not as butch as I was expecting! We won the treasure hunt and Ralph took a 'dog' for a walk.

Andrew had fun starring in a Virgin TV commercial as a posh toilet attendant!

I helped to set up a new Pride London organisation to run the annual parade, and for the first time a rally in Trafalgar Square, and have now ended up as Chair. Next year we're adding a



Toronto

Festival Fortnight of cultural events. With legislation to include Partnership Rights now passed, the campaigning and lobbying we've done for the last 30 years have paid off and it means that Pride is changing from a protest into a celebration and 'tourist attraction'.

Then a hectic trip to Spain for an IGLTA conference in Barcelona (fab) and a wonderful drive up the coast to see Salvador Dali's museum and fishing village home. Stayed at Roberto's beach house, and visited Gwynfa and Royal.

The Coote family have been growing up fast, with Toby inviting us to celebrate his 18th by wind-surfing at Lee-on-Solent. However Dad has been in hospital again after another heart attack, so we're all hoping that a proposed angioplasty operation in Southampton will enable him to come home with re-newed energy.

Sarah and I saw the Beach Boys at Portsmouth Guildhall, and sang along to every song while on stage they danced around their Zimmer Frames.

Lots of B&B guests returned and made Cooks Road as busy as ever. However having eaten my way around



Europe, Tony, Andrew and Ralph are pushing me to re-visit Atkins and the gym again!

It's been an artistic year. From top 'Black Party Man' by Ralph, 'Dad and Mary Gilbert at Lee-on-Solent' by me, 'Steve on Brooklyn Bridge' by Ralph, and my special birthday present from Mum of her 'Scooner in The Solent'. And brother Peter sold one of his at Portsmouth Art Show! More of Ralph's work at: www.ralphsanders.com



Le Touquet



Berlin

Happy P