



Andrew's 50th Birthday
Rivoli Ballroom, April 2005

The highlight of 2005 was Andrew's glamorous 50th birthday party at the marvelously old-fashioned Rivoli Ballroom in deepest South London. It was wonderful to see all the Kerr family there, especially as it was Andrew's twin brother Peter's birthday too. Latin and Salsa dancing was followed by rice-and-peas and cakes by



Marnie and Maureen! Had a good time at travel conferences in Lisbon and Cologne (I met a Vin Diesle look-alike!) and we hosted international journalists with a champagne flight on the London Eye to promote next year's EuroPride 06 in London

(for which I am Chair). This year's Pride was a great success, and for the first time included a Pride Festival with over 350 'cultural' events.

Ralph, Kunle and I went to the Black Party in New York, as usual, which was so packed that the windows burst exposing us to everyone



Leather men Andrew and Ron

walking down 53rd street. Ralph created another special torso portrait for my walls!

Watch out for my garden which appears in the new Dr Who series on TV soon.

Tony, Andrew, Ron and myself are all back on our motorbikes – so watch out. There is no Congestion Charge for bikes but now there are insufficient parking bays! Hammy gets free parking and a socket for his electric car!

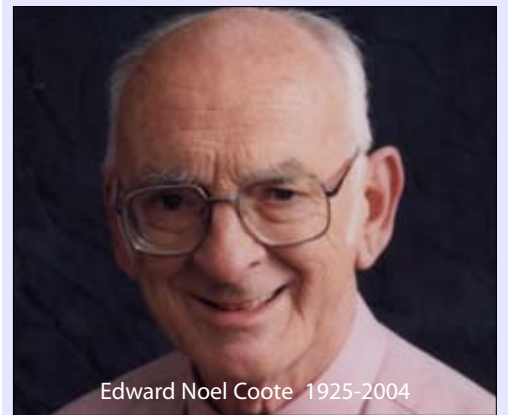
Celebrated the launch of Civil Partnerships at the House of Commons. Meanwhile I have been fully (and sometimes double) booked for my B&B, and the GAYtoZ web site had its best ever month in July with 235,000 visitors.

Discovered the wonderful Type Museum in an old horse hospital round the corner from The Oval, with a working Linotype and other 'hot metal' machines, now all replaced by Apple computers.

Spent Trafalgar Day with Mum and Auntie Barbara sipping Pimms on Southsea Seafront while Nelson came ashore right in front of us, followed by a re-enactment of the battle with great fireworks - and Spinnaker Tower eventually opened next to Dad's old office.



Trafalgar Day in Pompey



Edward Noel Coote 1925-2004

Dad died on 30 December 2004 following more heart problems. He was able to say good-bye to the family before deciding he was ready to go. It was standing-room only at his funeral, and his coffin was lead by a lively jazz band, before my brothers Peter, Richard, myself and Dad's brother Terry carried it into the crematorium. Sadly Uncle Eric also died a month later, so now Mum and her sister Barbara are planning to travel the world together....you have been warned! The family gathered for a rather funny, and not at all sombre, ceremony to scatter Dad's ashes in the church garden, which he tended and had won 'best garden' awards. We miss him.



St Cuthbert's Garden