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The songs “Diamonds are Forever” sung by Shirely Bassegy for the James Bond film or “Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend” sung by Eartha Kitt are well known to us. Some of us may even have some diamonds but there is one lady with a very large collection.

Queen Elizabeth II.



Queen Elizabeth II, as the head of the British state and sovereign, also acts as the head of the monarchy, or The Crown. The Crown owns a great deal of property, including **The Crown Jewels** which are estimated at a value of 3 to 5 billion pounds. The really dramatic pieces we only see on very high royal occasions or at dinners and banquets with special guests. These pieces are not worn by the Queen normally on her day to day duties which can be entertaining a foreign head of state or a day to commemorate an important past event. Whatever she is wearing she almost

always wears a string of pearls and is never seen without a brooch, in fact she has **96** brooches. These small but precious pieces are not so eye catching but they often have a really special personal meaning to Her Majesty or she is sending out a particular message to the people she is with at the time. The pair of brooches in the first photo were - just like the string of pearls - given to her by her father **King George VI on April 21<sup>st</sup> 1944** to celebrate her **18<sup>th</sup>** birthday.

This brooch is made up of two separate art deco style pieces. It was made by **Boucheron** from baguette, oval and round diamonds and aquamarines. These two pieces can be worn in different ways, including as one large brooch, but the Queen prefers to wear them separately in a diagonal form. This one is her absolute favourite, a gift from the father she so loved and she chose to wear it in 2012 for the TV speech for her **Diamond Jubilee**. This brooch really is my favorite as well.



The luxury jewellery company founded in **1858** by Frederic Boucheron is the oldest in the Place Vendome in Paris. It is famous for its original designs and also for its collection of watches.



My second favorite has very much a place in the Queen’s heart. It is the **Flower Basket Brooch**. This is a colourful spray of diamond, ruby and sapphire flowers. Again this brooch was presented to the Queen by her father King George VI, to celebrate the birth of her first child and heir to the throne Prince Charles in **1948**. The Queen wore it for her first official portrait with Prince Charles and again decades later for the christening of Charles’s first grandchild, Prince George, in **2013**. This brooch was very popular in the 1950’s and there were many copies made of it at the time. I had such a copy when I was a little girl. Mine was not made of diamonds and sapphires but cheap glass. However I loved it! Somewhere in all my many house moves it got lost. One day I will give one to my granddaughter Lily. She can already do the Queen’s royal wave! It is possible to buy a replica from the Royal Collections shop for **£55**

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### The Queen's brooches (continued)



The **Centenary Rose** brooch was commissioned by the Queen as a **100<sup>th</sup>** birthday gift for **Elizabeth the Queen Mother** in August **2000**. Framed by 100 diamonds, it features a hand painted **Elizabeth Grandiflora Rose**. This beautiful rose was especially bred for the **Queen's Coronation** in **1953** and still flowers in many gardens in Britain today.

The Queen wore the brooch as a very special symbol of remembrance for her Christmas broadcast in **2002**. This was a particularly hard year emotionally for the Queen. During that year she lost her sister **Princess Margaret** and also her mother. The **Queen Mother** died in **March 2002** at the age of **101**, only weeks after the death of her younger daughter.

This brooch was made by the company **Collins & Sons** in Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Originally Harry Collins worked in a high class jewellers in Bond Street, London, before opening his own shop in Kent. He soon gained success with his original, hand crafted items which were very much loved by the royals. Queen Elizabeth II appointed Harry Collins as her personal jeweller in 2000 and later in 2016 he became member of the **Royal Victorian Order**. The role of **Her Majesty the Queen's Jeweller** is to look after the Queen's personal collection at Buckingham Palace. He has his own workshop within the Palace and cares for each item to ensure that it is in first class condition when the Queen wants to wear it.



The **Queen Elizabeth Grandiflora Rose** is a cross between a **Florabunda** and a hybrid **Tea Rose** and it blooms in clusters. It really is a rose fit for a queen. Very elegant and regal. This rose can grow up to two meters high and one meter in width. It was bred by the rose breeder **Lammerts** in **1953** and has always been a favourite in British rose gardens for almost 70 years now. This rose was included in the **Rose Hall of Fame** in **1979**.



After she lost many family jewels to the **King of Hanover** in **1858**, Queen Victoria commissioned three diamond brooches, two large and one slightly smaller from the jeweller **Garrad** in London. They are called the Queen Victoria Bow Brooch and contain over **500 diamonds** from her own collection.

Queen Victoria designated the Bow Brooches an heirloom of the Crown upon her death in **1901**, meaning they pass from Queen to Queen, to be worn by queens regnant or consort.

They were worn by both **Queen Alexandra** and **Queen Mary** who both added diamond pendants to them. Queen Elizabeth II wore this brooch on her birthday in **2015** when she passed Queen Victoria's record as the country's longest monarch, having served an incredible **63 years and 216 days**. The Queen inherited them in **1952** and usually only wears them individually, one at a time.



The **House of Garrad** had its first royal commission in **1735** and was appointed **Crown Jeweller** by Queen Victoria in **1843**. Since then they have been in charge of caring for the **Crown Jewels**. After working for 25 years for his company, my father was presented with a gold watch from Garrad's. My mother received a replica of the Bow Brooch, in platinum.

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### Queen Elizabeth II brooches (continued)



**Queen Mary's True Lover's Knot Brooch** is the biggest and fanciest in the Queen's collection. The brooch features brilliant cut diamonds set in silver and gold tied in a „lover's knot“.

The ribbon has **joints** on each of the **tails** to allow the ends to move. **Queen Mary**, the **Queen's mother-in-law** commissioned this brooch in **1930** from the **House of Garrad**, and it is one of 6 bow brooches of this style that she owned. They were inherited by the Queen in **1953** on Queen Mary's death. The Queen wore this brooch to the weddings of two people who mean a great deal to her. The wedding of her sister **Princess Margaret** in **1960** and her grandson **Prince William's** wedding in **2011**. It is rather large and glamorous and so it is usually only worn on important state events and as evening wear.



This next brooch is called the **Protection Stone** made in **1850**. It was originally given to **Queen Mary** by **King Edward VII** and **Queen Alexandra**, when she married the future **King George** in **1893** and is one of a similar pair. Queen Alexandra was an avid collector of jewels, art and decorative objects.

The large stone surrounded by diamonds, is turquoise which is a colour which has long been considered a colour of healing and peace. During the reign of Queen Mary from **1910** to **1936** there were some very difficult and tragic events. The First World War, the Spanish flu pandemic and the recession of the 1930's. Queen Mary was known to have a positive hands-on response to crisis. She spent the war organising relief efforts, like clothing distribution & started an employment program for women. This Protection Stone is associated with Queen Mary which is why the Queen aged **93** chose to wear it whilst giving her Coronavirus supporting speech to the nation.



The day Trump arrived in England, the Queen wore the **American State Visit Brooch**. This vintage brooch, a small green flower, was a gift from former **President Barack Obama** in **2011**, and so her choice of accessory while **President Donald Trump** was visiting her country has raised some eyebrows for its potential hidden meaning.

The Obamas reportedly hand-picked this personal gift which featured 14-karat yellow gold, diamonds and moss agate at Washington D.C.'s **Tiny Jewel Box** jewellery store.

Wearing the brooch during the Trumps visit may well have had hidden meaning. What could that meaning have been? As we know she selects her brooches very carefully to suit the occasion. Maybe Trump did not even see the brooch which was cleverly almost hidden on her patterned dress. Mr. Trump has only eyes for himself, perhaps the Queen should have worn the **Coronation Crown!**





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### News for and about the English ladies

August is an ideal month to do nice things together with family and friends outside. It is also the best way to spend your spare time during the difficult coronavirus. I wrote earlier about a famous rose and now it would be good to visit a few of the most lovely places around us which are full of many types of roses.



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This Summer I am the proud owner of a new rose.  
This rose is called **Shanty** and is a florabunda.  
It was a gift from one of my lovely ladies, Martina Wätzold.  
As we have been meeting in my garden when the weather has been good, we have the chance to watch it grow together. Many thanks to Martina!!!!



### **Birthdays in August**

**Petra Schnorr**

**Happy Birthday, Petra.**

