

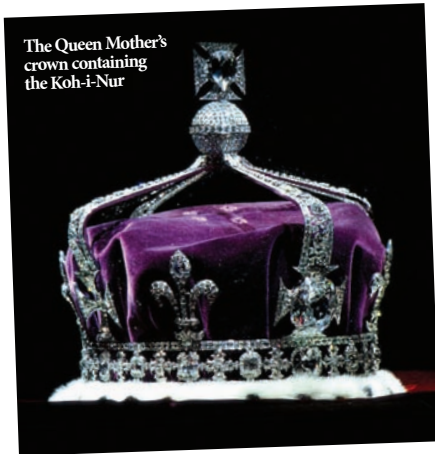


# Gill Watson's 'Life Bites'

Gill, her goldsmith husband Ged Collins and their children Zoe and Joe plan their Jubilee trip to Buckingham Palace.

We have just booked to see Diamonds: A Jubilee Celebration at Buckingham Palace so I've been doing a bit of googling to find out exactly which of the Queen's sparklers will be on show. As far as I can tell, none of the 'biggies' will be making an appearance. The Cullinans and the Koh-i-Nur will remain in the Tower which, personally, I think is the best place for them. The last thing I want is some Jack-the-lad staging a hold-up to steal the world's largest diamonds whilst we're in the palace. I've worried about security levels in the Queen's home ever since she found that bloke in her bedroom in 1982.

The last diamond exhibition that me, Ged and the kids saw was held at the Natural History Museum in 2005. The Millennium Star diamond was on display there for the first time since thieves had tried to steal it from the Dome five years earlier. Lo and behold, thieves were planning to steal it from the Natural History Museum too and shortly after we visited, the Metropolitan Police closed the exhibition. It was unlikely the thieves would have made it out of the building with any of the diamonds but the police were worried too many people could have been injured in the attempt. It scared me half to death to think we could have been caught in a gun battle between the cops and the robbers. I still wonder if they would have tried to steal the 'Black Orlov' diamond along with the



Millennium? It's said to be cursed and has only ever been seen in the UK at the Natural History Museum exhibition. Three of its owners have jumped to their deaths and the big, black stone was eventually re-cut in a bid to break the curse. Why they thought that should work I do not know.

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*"The Queen Mum spent a lot of time wearing a so-called cursed diamond - namely the Koh-i-Nur"*

namely the Koh-i-Nur. It formed the centrepiece of the crown she wore in her role as 'Empress of India'. This was the crown she donned for her daughter's coronation in 1953 and when the Queen Mother died in 2002 it was placed on the coffin at her funeral. The Hindu text relating to the diamond says, 'He who owns this diamond will own the world but will also know its misfortunes. Only God or woman can wear it with impunity'. In heed of this, the stone has only ever been worn female

members of the Royal Family.

The Queen mum was a braver girl than me. I for one would give any unlucky stone a wide berth but then again it seems unlikely that I will ever be in the position where I have to tell Ged, 'Thanks but no thanks, darling'. Only enormous stones carry a curse.

Although Ged has cursed a relatively small diamond once. Back around the time of the Silver Jubilee he was setting a

diamond in a ring ready for it to take pride of place in his shop window. He dropped it and it seemingly disappeared. For three weeks he

cursed it until he eventually thought to look inside the turn-ups of the trousers he had been wearing on the day it went missing. And there it was...



Gill now has a blog, [gillwatsonlifebites.blogspot.com](http://gillwatsonlifebites.blogspot.com) where readers can register their e mail address to receive regular updates.