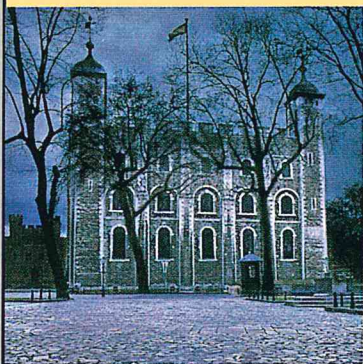


# The Crown

## JEWELS



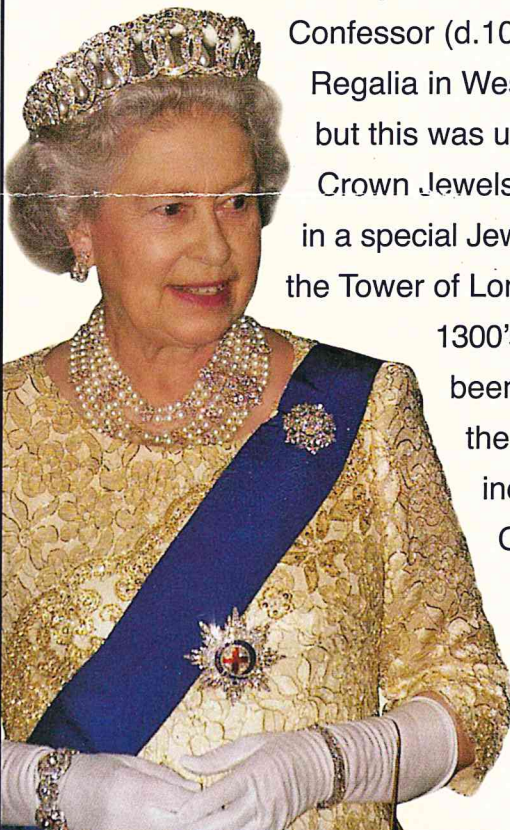
The Crown Jewels include crowns, sceptres, orbs, rings, swords, spurs, bracelets and robes. They are mostly used in the Coronation of a Monarch, which is when a King or a Queen is officially crowned at Westminster Abbey. These objects are often referred to as the 'Regalia', and are kept in the Tower of London.



### A Home for the Jewels

Most of the Crown Jewels are made of precious metals (gold, silver or platinum) and many are set with

famous gemstones. Edward the Confessor (d.1066) kept his Regalia in Westminster Abbey, but this was unsafe so the Crown Jewels have been kept in a special Jewels House at the Tower of London since the 1300's. Attempts have been made to steal the Jewels, including one by Colonel Blood in 1671, but nobody has succeeded.



### Disaster and Destruction

Much has happened to the Crown Jewels over the centuries. After the civil war of the seventeenth century, when King Charles I was beheaded and a Republic was declared, Oliver Cromwell ordered that the Regalia be totally destroyed as he felt it represented the rule of Kings and Queens which he hated. Many of the gold pieces (some were nearly 600 years old) were melted down and the gemstones removed from their settings and sold. Only a golden spoon and three steel Coronation swords survived.

### A New Regalia

After Cromwell's death, The Monarchy was restored. The new King was Charles II. For his Coronation in 1661, The King ordered new Regalia at the enormous cost of £12,050 3s 5d. In addition, The King ordered new gold altar and banqueting plate, costing a further £18,000. Much of this Regalia is in use to this day, for example St Edward's Crown.





# The Crown JEWELS



## A Weighty Crown

St. Edward's Crown weighs a heavy 2.23kg. It is made of gold and decorated with many precious and semi-precious stones including

sapphires and amethysts. It was considered too weighty for King Edward VII, who was still recovering from a serious operation at the time of his Coronation in 1901. The crown was last used to crown Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953.

The Imperial State Crown contains over 3,000 gems. For the Coronation of The Queen's father, King George VI, in 1937, the gems were all transferred from the old Imperial Crown, which had been made for Queen Victoria in 1838. The crown contains many famous jewels including the Second Star of Africa diamond, the Black Prince's Ruby, the Stuart Sapphire, St. Edward's Sapphire and Queen Elizabeth II's earrings. Her Majesty wears this crown at the

State Opening of Parliament.

## Diamonds and Gems

Among the other famous gemstones on display at the Tower is the First Star of Africa. It is mounted in the Sovereign's Sceptre. This is the largest flawless cut diamond

in the world and weighs 530 carats. The First and Second Star of Africa were cut from the famous Cullinan Diamond, the largest diamond ever found. Weighing over 3,000 carats, the Cullinan Diamond was given to King Edward VII by the Government of the Transvaal (South Africa) in 1907.



The legendary Koh-i-nur ('Mountain of Light') diamond, presented to Queen Victoria in 1850, weighs 106 carats. Traditionally the Koh-i-nur is only worn by a Queen or Queen Consort: it is said to bring bad luck to any man who wears it.

Among the other interesting jewels on display are Queen Victoria's small diamond crown and the Imperial Crown of India, made for King George V's visit to India as King-Emperor in 1911 and set with around 6,000 diamonds. This is the only crown that is allowed to leave the country.

## Guarding the Jewels

Many millions of visitors go to see the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London every year, where they are guarded by Yeoman Warders (sometimes described as 'Beefeaters').

The priceless jewels remain a central symbol of The Monarchy and the nation. Just don't think about trying to steal them!!



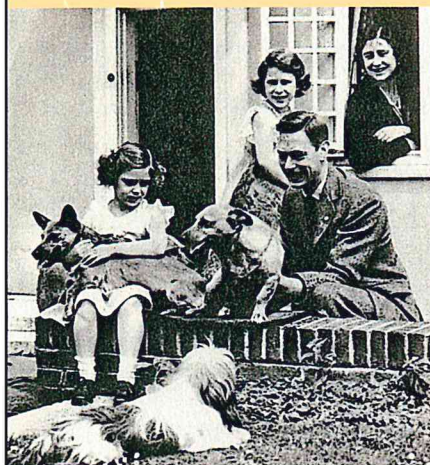


# Royal

## PETS



The Queen is well known for her love of horses and dogs. She has been riding horses since the age of four and was given her first corgi at the age of 18.



### Corgis and Dorgis

The Queen's first corgi was called Susan. She died in 1959 and is buried at Sandringham. All

the years have included: Myth, Fable, Kelpie, Pharos, Flora, Swift, Emma, Linnet, Rush, Minnie, Monty, Harris, Brandy, Cider, Berry, Willow and Holly.

### Walking the Dogs

The Queen looks after her own dogs as much as possible. They live in her private apartments and often wake her up in the morning, as well as travelling with her throughout the United Kingdom. Her Majesty walks them regularly in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and the other residences. They are sometimes seen at receptions at the Palace.

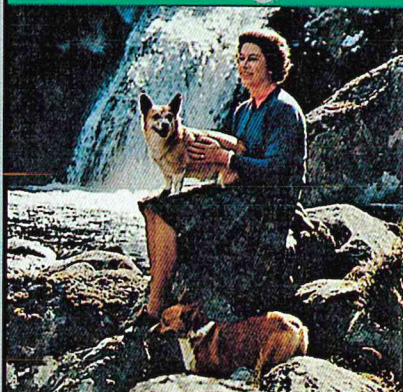
Her Majesty's corgis are descended from Susan. Corgis have been a favourite dog in The Royal Family since The Queen's father, King George VI, first bought one in 1933.

In addition, Her Majesty has a number of 'dorgis'. These were a result of breeding Pipkin, a long-haired dachshund belonging to Princess Margaret, with a corgi. When The Queen Mother died, Her Majesty said that she would take care of her corgis as otherwise they might not have a home. Some of the names of The Queen's corgis and dorgis over





# Royal PETS



## Breeding and Training

At Sandringham in Norfolk, there are kennels where Labradors and Spaniels are bred

and trained for use on the estate for The Queen and other members of The Royal Family.

## All The Queen's Horses

The Queen loves horses and knows a lot about them. She was taught to ride at the age of four and her first pony was called Peggy. She later had more lessons in the riding school at Buckingham Palace with her sister, Princess Margaret. The Princesses looked after their ponies themselves and learned to harness and drive them. Her Majesty continues to enjoy riding when she is at Windsor, Sandringham or Balmoral.

## The Royal Mews

Horses that are used for ceremonial purposes are kept at the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. There are currently about 30 horses in the Mews who draw the carriages and coaches on State or ceremonial occasions throughout the year. They are very well trained and looked after and you might see them pulling carriages on the streets around the Palace when you are in London.

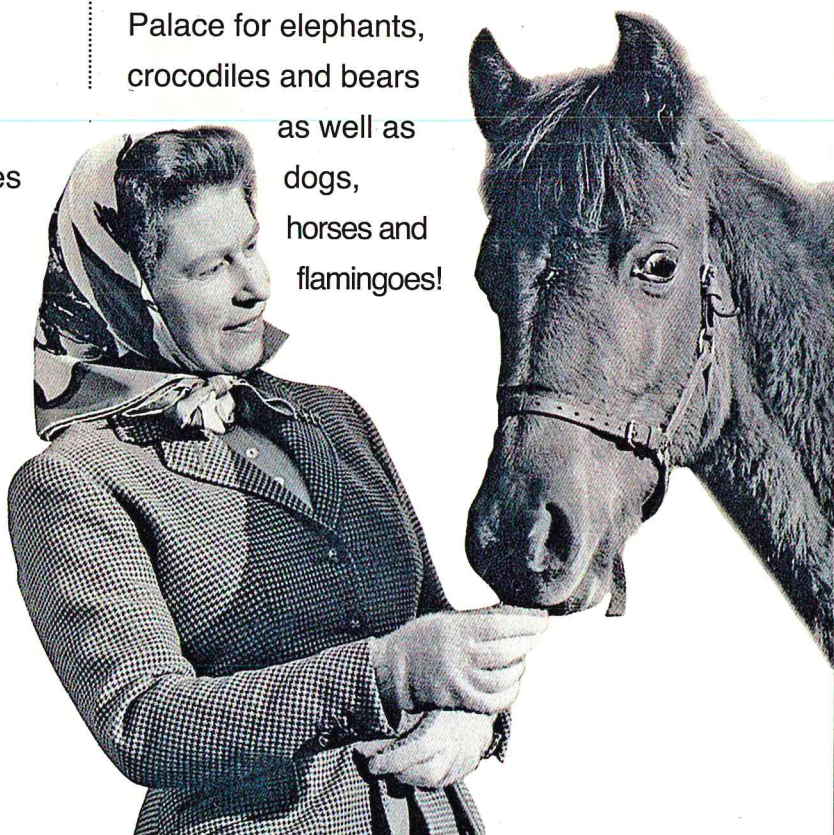
The Queen also breeds racehorses. Her Majesty's horses have won more than 600 races over the years. Jockeys that ride The Queen's horses in races wear Her Majesty's racing colours. They are a purple body with gold braid, scarlet sleeves and black velvet cap with gold fringe.

## Strange Pets and Animals

The Royal Family has been given a number of unusual animals as gifts over the years. In 1972, The Queen was given an elephant named Jumbo as a gift for her silver wedding anniversary and, in 1961, The Duke of Edinburgh was given a hippopotamus!

In 1956, Princess Anne was given a bear called Nikki when she was only 6 years old, while a village in The Gambia gave Prince Edward a crocodile when he was only one year old. These animals were kept in the zoo as there was not room at Buckingham Palace for elephants, crocodiles and bears

as well as dogs, horses and flamingoes!



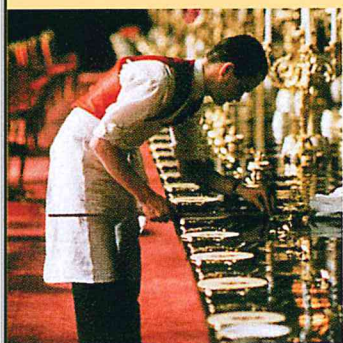


# Buckingham

## PALACE



Buckingham Palace is where The Queen lives when she is in London. You can always tell if Her Majesty is at home, because the Royal Standard will fly above the building. When The Queen is away the Union Flag flies above the Palace.



### A Royal Home

The Queen lives in an apartment at Buckingham Palace, but the Palace has over 400 rooms as well

as a swimming pool and squash courts. There is also a large garden with a tennis court and lake.

Around 550 staff work in the Palace and garden, to help Her Majesty in her job as Head of State and to keep the Palace and works of art clean and in good condition.

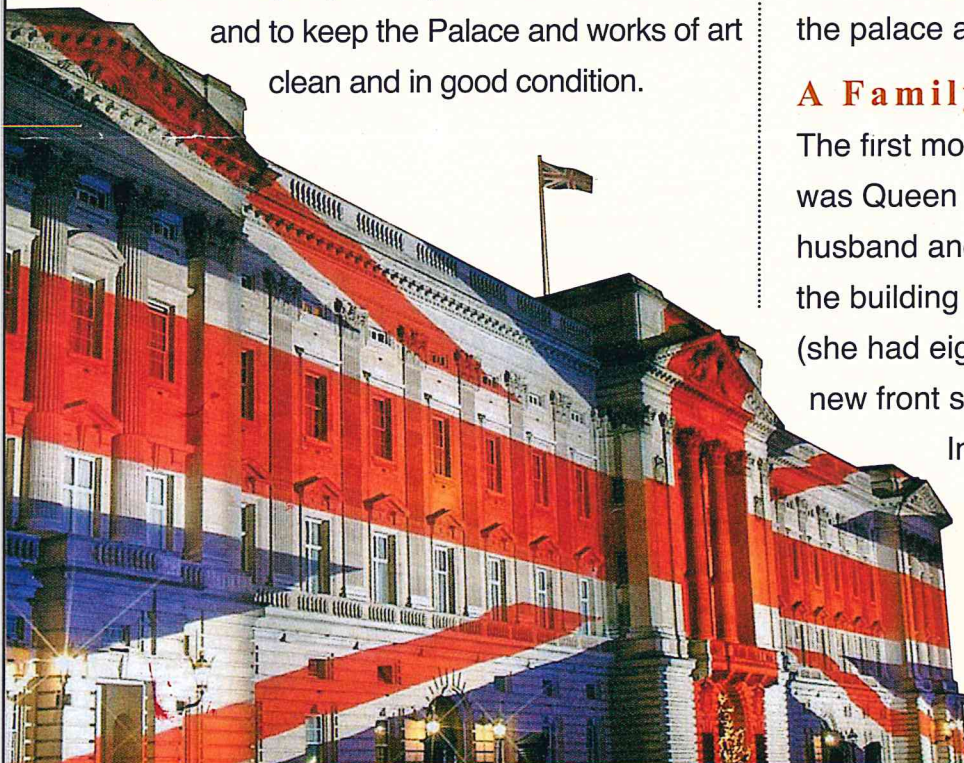
### From a House to a Palace

When Buckingham Palace was originally built in 1677, it was known as Buckingham House, because it was the home of the Duke of Buckingham. King George III bought it as a family home in 1762 for his wife, Queen Charlotte. Over the next sixty years, the house was enlarged and remodelled. King George's son, George IV, moved many works of art into the palace and changed the interior decoration.

### A Family Home

The first monarch to live in Buckingham Palace was Queen Victoria. She lived there with her husband and children. Queen Victoria felt that the building was too small for her large family (she had eight children), so she added a whole new front section closing the other three sides.

In 1913 the front was given a new stone face which explains why it is a different colour to the other three sides of the building. Since Queen Victoria, all the Kings and Queens have been based at the Palace.





# Buckingham PALACE



In this reign, three of Her Majesty's children, Prince Charles, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, were born at Buckingham Palace and Princess Anne was born at Clarence House.

by people walking on it with dusters attached to their feet! There are many other State Rooms in the Palace which are used for official purposes including the Throne Room, the Marble Hall and the State Dining Room. You can see them in the summer when the Palace is open to visitors. You can also visit The Queen's Gallery, which has art exhibitions, and the Royal Mews, where all the horses, carriages and cars are kept.

## Visitors to the Palace

Many important visitors are invited to the Palace. The Prime Minister comes to see The Queen every week while Parliament is sitting, and many ambassadors, judges and clergy also have audiences. Award ceremonies called Investitures are held in the Ballroom at the Palace; every year there are at least three garden parties. During a State Visit, foreign Heads of State often stay with Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace.

## Ballrooms and Banquets

There is always a State Banquet during a State Visit. This is held in the Ballroom at Buckingham Palace for around 160 guests. Because there are so many guests, the table has to be absolutely enormous. It is so big that it has to be polished



## The Palace Gardens

The Buckingham Palace gardens cover nearly 40 acres. The Queen has added

many flowers and trees to the garden during her reign including 34 Indian horse chestnut trees. Many species of birds have lived in the gardens, among them flamingoes. Helicopters, which Her Majesty and other members of the Royal Family use on official occasions, can land on a special pad in the garden.

At different times of the year, The Queen also stays at Windsor Castle in Berkshire, Sandringham House in Norfolk, the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh and Balmoral Castle in northern Scotland.





# The Queen's WORKING DAY



The Queen's day begins at 8 o'clock. Shortly afterwards Her Majesty has breakfast and reads the daily newspapers. The Queen's Piper plays each morning in the garden outside her window.



## Audiences with The Queen

The Queen has many

different jobs to do during the course of the day. In the morning she usually receives a number of important visitors. All foreign Ambassadors and High Commissioners are welcomed to the country by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. A foreign Ambassador presents a Letter of Credence and a High Commissioner (representing a Commonwealth country) presents a Letter of Commission. All British Ambassadors or High Commissioners are also seen on their appointment. In addition, The Queen meets Government ministers, military men and women, holds council meetings and sees church leaders.

## The Boxes of Government

Later in the day, The Queen attends to her red boxes. These are red leather briefcases which are sent to Her Majesty every day containing Government and other papers which The Queen has to see, sign or answer. Every law that is passed in the United Kingdom must be signed by Her Majesty.

This is called the 'Royal Assent'. The Queen also receives hundreds of letters from people every day, a large selection of which she reads before they are answered by her office.





# The Queen's WORKING DAY



## Awards and Honours

Awards ceremonies are held at Buckingham Palace on a regular basis throughout the year. These are called investitures. The awards are for people who have done good work in their community or in a particular subject or field. Some people are knighted by The Queen. When a gentleman receives a knighthood, Her Majesty rests a sword on each of his shoulders. Ladies are given a badge and star to wear, and call themselves Dame.

## Garden Parties

During the summer, The Queen gives at least three garden parties at Buckingham Palace and one at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, when she is staying there. These usually start at 4.00pm. Guests come from all over the United Kingdom and even overseas to enjoy tea, sandwiches and cakes in the garden. Once a week, when Parliament is sitting, the Prime Minister comes to see Her Majesty privately to talk about Government and other matters. On other evenings she might host a reception at Buckingham Palace. Otherwise she spends her evenings privately, often working on the papers in her red boxes.



## Out and About

Of course The Queen's day might be very different if she is going out on visits. She is Patron or President of over 600 charities, churches, societies, schools and associations which she often visits. Her Majesty has visited every single county in the United Kingdom, frequently with her husband, The Duke of Edinburgh. These visits can take the whole day and sometimes two days. The Queen still has to work on her red boxes after she has returned, and she may have to see members of her household and staff before the end of the day. Her Majesty carries out over 450 engagements every year.



## Overseas Travel

Usually twice a year The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh pay a State Visit to another country, and Heads of State from other countries pay a State Visit to this country, when they stay with Her Majesty at one of her official residences. The Queen also pays Royal Visits to Commonwealth countries.