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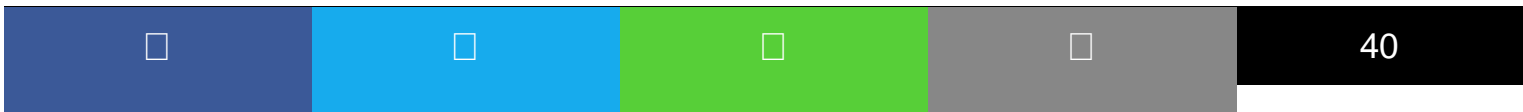
NUTSHELL

Happiness in Britain peaked in 1957, study finds – and we never recovered



Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk

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Having a great time Credit getty

In 1957, our houses were freezing cold because there was no central heating, indoor toilets were for posh people – and the people who would invent Facebook and Snapchat hadn't even been born.

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18, found we've ever been since, according



changed after being asked to start paying £200 a month rent »

to a new analysis.

The study was conducted by scientists, not Brexit voters, in case you were wondering.

Researchers from the University of Warwick conducted large-scale language analysis – looking for words such as ‘peaceful’, ‘enjoyment’ and ‘happiness’ – in eight million books published from between 1776 to 2009.

The researchers found that happiness rose from 1945 to 1957, then tailed off during the 70s, before recovering again – but never to the same heights.



Retro LOLs Credit getty

Dr Daniel Sgroi of the University of Warwick, said: ‘In 1957, memories of the Second World War and the period of austerity that followed were still fresh in the mind of the nation, perhaps helping people to appreciate what they had.

‘It may be that people in the 1950s had a greater sense of realism about happiness.’