

1880 was best year

THE good old days really did exist – and they were at their height with Britons most happy in 1880.

The lowest point in recent history was 1978 and the Winter of Discontent, researchers claim.

Their study, which aims to help governments make better decisions, looked at newspapers and books from 1820 to 2009.

The year 1880 saw the first Test match in England, Disraeli was PM and the country was in the Anglo-Afghan war.

Prof Thomas Hills, of Warwick University, said: "The 1880s were the age of empire and Britain was very proud of itself."

