



## It's not like the old days

Missing the old days when everyone said 'please' and 'thank you'? Wondering what happened to the glorious springs of times gone by? If so, you are far from alone.

The research was conducted by internet search engine Ask Jeeves, which asked 1,000 men and women aged from 16 to 60-plus which aspects of modern life they think have gone downhill the most.

Manners topped the list, followed by the weather. Pubs and schools were in equal third.

Nearly two in three of us think people have poorer manners or are not as polite as they used to be, while more than a third believe the worst thing about modern life is the bad weather.

To add to the glumness there are not even any decent pubs left to drown your sorrows in, as nearly one in three think they have got worse.

Coverage of flooding and freezing temperatures prompted 37 per cent to think the weather has gradually deteriorated over the years.

Television programmes and public transport came equal fifth.

Next came personal banking, with more than a quarter of those quizzed, 28 per cent, saying banks are worse.

More than one in four people even said children were not as good as they used to be, with kids coming in eighth place.

Despite coming more than 50 years after Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be was a hit for Max Bygraves, the survey suggests that, in one way at least, little has changed in the public consciousness since then.

Just as the song tells how 'we used to have stars, singers who sung', one in four said music today is not as good as it used to be, putting it ninth on the list.

Rounding out the top 10 were doctors, with one in five saying they were better in the old days.

Policemen and politicians only narrowly avoided places in the top ten.

Seventeen per cent said football was not as entertaining while 17 per cent also said Hollywood films were worse.

But it's not all bad.

When it came to things that are considered better than they used to be, people said restaurant meals and cars had improved considerably.

The expansion of air travel prompted one in 10 people to say holidays are better, while a similar 10 per cent said fashion had improved over the decades.

A spokesman for Ask Jeeves, which polled 1,000 people, said: 'Our research shows that a number of aspects of modern day life are believed to be worse than they once were.'

'It is not clear whether people look at things through rose-tinted spectacles or just have a romantic notion of things being better in the past.'

'Many people have never had it so good when it comes to things like public transport, choice of TV channels and entertainment venues, so it is interesting that these are often branded worse now than in the past.'



e.g. There used to be a pub on every corner in my area. Now you have to walk miles to find one.