

And while the English language has continued to gradually evolve, place names haven't. Resulting in a language landscape littered with phonetic traps. But what about Frome? Which linguistic group is responsible for Britain's so-called hardest place name? Unusually for a place name in England, Frome is from a surviving Celtic word "Frama", which means fair, fine, or brisk. Probably, describing the flow of its lovely river. So, it is not really surprising that the oldest language in these islands is the one that's drifted the furthest from pronounceability.

To sum up, as a result of various conquests of the territory of modern Britain and the influence of many tribes British place names are really hard to pronounce. But helpfully there are some common rules that can help avoid mispronunciation.

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‘ANNUS HORRIBILIS’. HOW PUBLIC OPINION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY CHANGED AFTER 1992

‘ANNUS HORRIBILIS’. КАК ИЗМЕНИЛОСЬ МНЕНИЕ ОБЩЕСТВА О БРИТАНСКОЙ КОРОЛЕВСКОЙ СЕМЬЕ ПОСЛЕ 1992 ГОДА

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The royal family is an integral part of the political and cultural life of Great Britain. Its events deeply influence British society, but its members are far from being perfect. The year 1992 was particularly rich in troubles for the Royal Family, and the media reaction only made the situation worse. The article describes the main events of 1992 and how they influenced public opinion about the Royal Family.

Keywords: Royal family; terrible year; public opinion; divorce; Queen Elizabeth II.

Королевская семья является неотъемлемой частью политической и культурной жизни Великобритании. События, происходящие в ней, глубоко влияют на британское общество, но её члены далеко не идеальны. 1992 год был особенно богат на невзгоды в королевской семье, а реакция СМИ только ухудшала

ситуацию. В статье описываются главные события 1992 года и как они повлияли на общественное мнение о королевской семье.

Ключевые слова: Британская королевская семья; ужасный год; общественное мнение; развод; Елизавета II.

The Royal Family are figureheads to the nation, guardians of tradition, the pride of the British people, but in the space of a single catastrophic year everything changed.

"1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an 'Annus Horribilis'." These are the words Queen Elizabeth II used in a speech marking the 40th year of her reign in 1992. The "sympathetic correspondent" was the queen's former assistant private secretary Sir Edward Ford, who had written to Elizabeth's private secretary expressing sympathy for the queen's troubles [1].

"Annus horribilis", Latin for "horrible year," is how the year 1992 of the royal family history is usually referred to. The tension between the media and the royals came to a head several times throughout the year through events such as the publication of Princess Diana's tell-all memoir which exposed scandals within the family and reporting of the Duchess of York's affair with her financial advisor.

The year was full of difficulties for the Queen, including the breakups of three of her children's marriages and a fire at Windsor Castle that left nearly one-fifth of the queen's royal residence in ruins. The British press and public followed these events with almost voyeuristic glee, pulling back the curtain on the notoriously private family and questioning the very institution of the monarchy itself [2].

1992 had a promising start, the Queen was to celebrate 4 decades as the monarch. But all hopes for calmness had soon been destroyed. The first royal to make things interesting was Sarah Ferguson (Fergie), the newest recruit to the family. The Queen's son Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, who knew each other since childhood, became reacquainted in 1985 and got engaged following a whirlwind romance. After six years of marriage, the pair made headlines in 1992 when they decided to separate. On 18th of January, while the Duchess was visiting a clinic in Florida for children affected by HIV, in London the press had broken the news of Fergie's close friendship with a Texan oil millionaire, Steve Wyatt, it soon turned out they had been lovers for months. The Duchess of York's lawyers asked for a separation. There was one ray of sunshine following an official separation, the Duke and Duchess of York appeared to have put their differences behind them. However, after a few months Ferguson would reappear in headlines in August when the

tabloids published topless photos of her having her feet kissed by American businessman John Bryan in the South of France. In a poll three days after publication eight out of ten Britons said that she should be stripped of her title if she separated from Prince Andrew. The first crack in a model family appeared.

Within weeks a second royal marriage would fail and shocking book would be released. In April, the queen's only daughter, Princess Anne, divorced Mark Phillips, her husband of 18 years. Back in 1973, Anne had married the dashing cavalry officer Mark Phillips, but the romance was now in trouble, Mark Phillips not only have been unfaithful, he fathered a child in New Zealand, and Anne in her turn was in love with someone herself. Speculation had continued to rage about Anne's private life. Despite the denials, the rumors proved true. Anne became the first of the Queen's children to actually divorce. In a poll in May nearly two-thirds said that the collapse of Anne's and Andrew's marriages had damaged the image of the royal family.

All eyes then turned to the most famous royal couple of all, Prince Charles (now King) and Diana. Their wedding had given massive boost to royal popularity 11 years before. Suspicion about their happiness started when on February 11 Diana visited the Taj Mahal where she deliberately posed alone. Now the public were desperate to know more about the true state of the marriage. On June 7 the serialization of a book "Diana: Her true story" written by Andrew Morton began. It caused a sensation when it was published, named Camilla Parker Bowles as Prince Charles' lover and detailed Diana's struggles with mental health and bulimia. The main source of information was Diana herself, a year ago she asked Morton to write a book exposing her suffering to the world. Traditional keep calm and carry on attitude didn't work, the opinions changed quite dramatically for the royal family, they became deeply unpopular.

But the end of this scandals wasn't even close. The press would soon publish material of an intimacy that would stun the world. In August 1992, The Enquirer published transcriptions of a private phone conversation between Princess Diana and car dealer James Gilbey from New Year's Eve 1989. People were shocked by the intimacy of the conversation and his referral to the married princess as "darling" 14 times. That scandal was quickly overshadowed by the November reveal of a private call between then-Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles. It was nicknamed "Camillagate". And Prince Charles became an object of ridicule internationally. This media blitz is known as "The War of the Waleses".

The recorded phone calls greatly impacted the public perception of the heir to the throne and called into question Charles' ability to one day be king. Subjects were invited to eavesdrop which thousands did at 36 pounds per minute. In August even the conservative Daily Telegraph called the royal family 'Largely a sentimental Victorian concept'.

Capping all that on November 20, 1992 a fire broke out in Windsor Castle and it had burned for 15 hours [4]. The fire had been caused by a spotlight igniting a curtain in a private chapel. The historic royal home was first built by William the Conqueror in 1070. Valuable works of art and furniture were saved from the blaze by a human chain that included palace staff and Prince Andrew.

The Windsor Castle fire was devastating to the Queen, who had spent much of her childhood and formative teenage years there. The fire renewed public scrutiny of the cost associated with the upkeep of the royal family. Windsor Castle is owned by the crown, not the monarch personally, and the question of who would pay for repairs sparked debate. Queen Elizabeth acted quickly. Just 48 hours after the "Annus horribilis" speech the Prime Minister told Parliament that the Queen and Prince Charles had volunteered to pay income tax, soon after it was announced that Buckingham palace would be opened for the first time to the public to help pay the costs of the Windsor repairs.

As for the public opinion, attitudes changed in response to events [5]. According to Ipsos MORI Attitudes to the Royal Family survey conducted in November 2021 the number of people who thought that Britain will be worse off without monarchy had fallen to its lower level of 38 %, comparing to the previous year number of 50%. At the same time more people became indifferent (41%) and the number of people who considered Britain will be better off without monarchy had not changed.

The results of asking people the question "Looking to the future, do you think Britain will or will not have a monarchy in...?" showed that after the events of 1992 people became 10% less sure that the monarchy will survive the next 10, 50 or 100 years.

Nevertheless, the satisfaction with the Queen has stayed wonderfully stable at about 75%. This, however, can't be said about Prince Charles (King Charles III). Only 42% of people approved of his public relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles a few years after the scandal. Ipsos Mori statistics found that in June 1991 82% of people thought Prince Charles would make a good king in the future, with just 5% thinking he would make a bad one. However, according to the same pollster, these figures had shifted

dramatically towards the end of the decade, by which time almost as many people thought he would be a bad king as a good one.

All of this set the stage for the Windsors to come full circle in their public acceptance of divorce, from it being anathema to being increasingly common. And in this way, the monarchy is a reflection of its people: British society itself has become more accepting about marital splits, with just over 40% of couples ending their unions as of 2016.

Among the students of BSU the survey was conducted, asking about their opinion of the Royal Family and divorces in it. We've found out that 60% of people vote for the preservation of the monarchy. However, the per cent of interviewed who think that monarchy will continue to exist lowers from 88% in 10 years to 24% in 100 years.

Also 62% of people say that the divorce influences their opinion of King Charles III, but at the same time only 18% have negative opinion of Camilla Parker-Bowles.

1992 was quite a challenging year for the monarchy, but it managed to restore its honor and, largely thanks to Queen Elizabeth II, became even stronger. Royals started to look more human. Queen Elizabeth II closed the "Annus Horribilis Speech" with a plea for kindness: "But we are all part of the same fabric of our national society and...scrutiny...can be just as effective if it is made with a touch of gentleness, good humor and understanding."

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