Why Simple Forms of Communication Are Almost Extinct

It is well-known that up until around two hundred years ago, people communicated mainly by writing letters or, if no paper was available, by shouting loudly. Both these methods had their advantages. So why are they now so rarely used?

Experts believe that the main reason is the invention of the telephone in the 1800s. Because Alexander Graham Bell finally succeeded in his desire to speak across wires, letter writing and shouting are now mostly used by ancient or exceptionally unusual people.

Unfortunately, shouting as a method of communication had many drawbacks. Neighbours were disturbed, small babies were woken, dogs would bark and the shouters would often suffer from extremely sore throats. Consequently, once the telephone was invented, shouting became banned in many areas.

At an earlier time, letter writing was common. People enjoyed writing to their friends and postage was cheap. However, now that the telephone is widely available, it is much quicker and easier to make a phone call. Most people now will not put in the time and effort required to write to even their best friends. As a result, many of us no longer even know how to write or post a letter.

So that is why today you so rarely receive a letter in the mail or hear people shouting their messages across the suburbs.