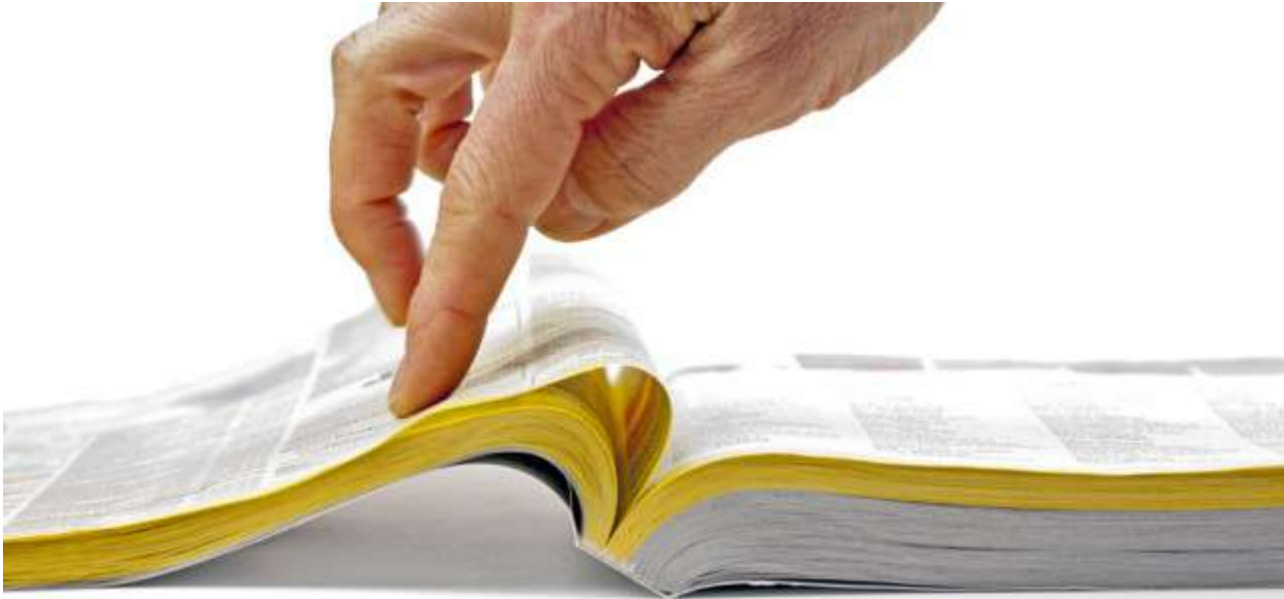


# The Incredible Shrinking Telephone Directory

By **Alexander Baron** - Nov 23, 2015

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**4**  
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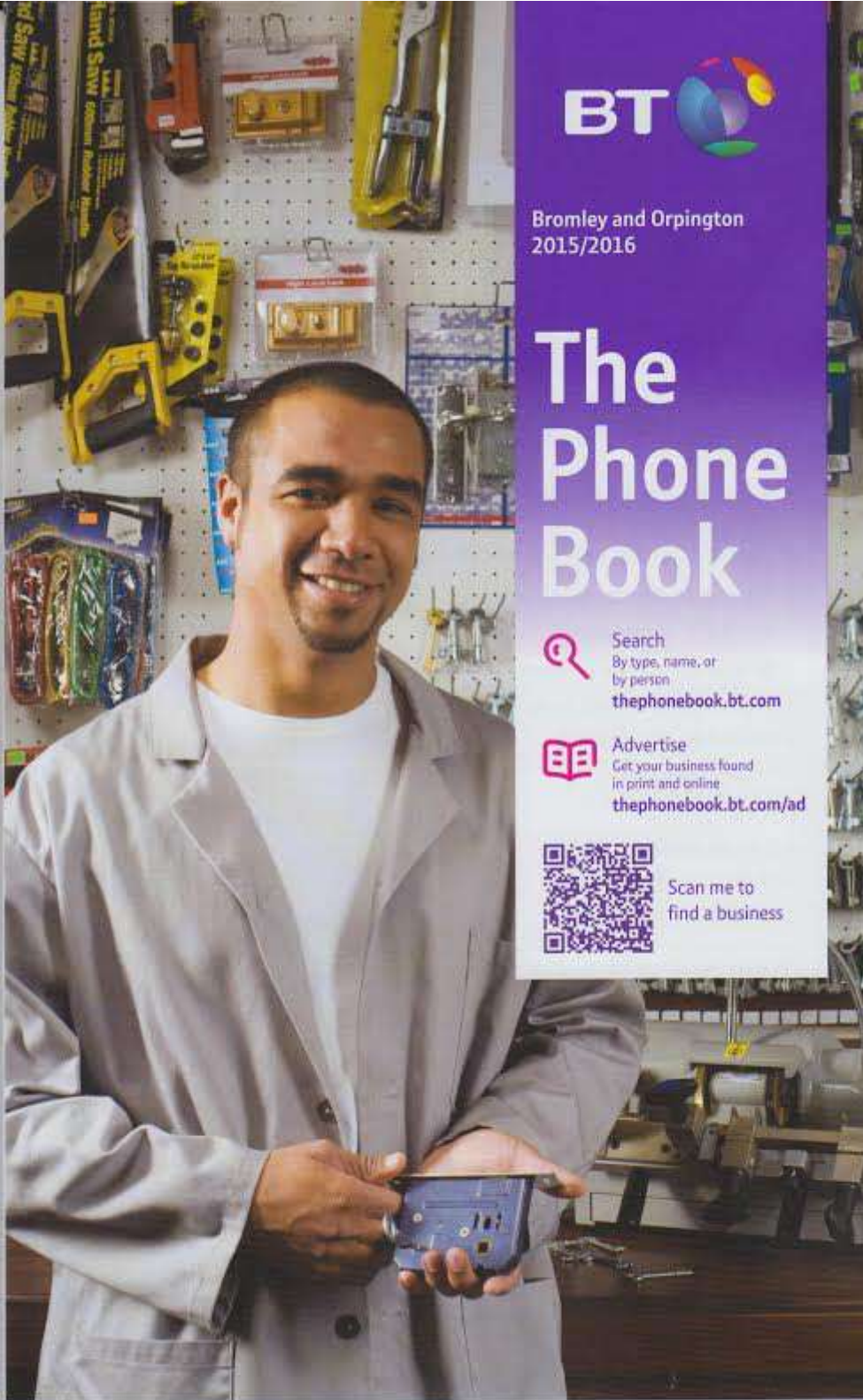
The latest British Telecom telephone directory for Bromley and Orpington was delivered recently; it runs to a mere 219 pages, business and residential.


More than half the species of trees in the Amazon rainforest are currently **facing extinction**.

What is the connection between the two statements above?

The answer is easy: telephone directories are made from paper; paper is made from wood; trees are made from...


Anyone who remembers old telephone directories from say the 1960s or has consulted old directories at the **Guildhall Library** or other archives will notice a stark difference between the directories of today and yesteryear. For example, the London phone book consisted of several large volumes. Large cities in the UK and worldwide would have similar volumes, but now that fewer people have landlines, and with every company and almost everybody on-line, we don't need massive directories anymore. Indeed, we can drastically reduce our consumption of paper in other fields.





**BT** 

Bromley and Orpington  
2015/2016

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In September it was **reported here** that an edible bottle had been developed; recently, the British Government introduced a small charge (tax) **on plastic bags**, which has led already to a great reduction in their use. Now combine this with paper bags and similar packaging replaced by edible or simply biodegradable materials, not just in the UK, but worldwide. This would lead to the development of new, clean industries, and would also

help take some of the pressure off the trees that are so precious to all life on Earth, and without which we would die.

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