

## From phonebox to lifesaving landmark

**A rural red phonebox near Cockermouth is set to become a life-saver after marking a major milestone in BT's Adopt a Kiosk programme.**

May 11, 2016



The Loweswater phone box which is now home of a defibrillator sponsored by BT

Loweswater's phonebox is the 3,000th to be adopted in the UK and has been fitted with defibrillator equipment, which can help save the lives of heart attack victims.

The equipment has been paid for by BT and installed by the Community Heartbeat Trust, a charity that makes possible the provision of defibrillators for local communities.

The defibrillator is secured in the phonebox in a high visibility yellow, vandal-resistant, heated steel cabinet.

It can be opened with a combination code available from the emergency services by calling 999.

As there is no mobile phone signal at the kiosk, BT has also sponsored a landline for emergency calls.

The defibrillator machine provides spoken step-by-step instructions for users.

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The phone box was bought by Community Heartbeat Trust for £1 as part of BT's Adopt a Kiosk scheme because it was no longer needed as a working payphone.

As well as being repainted to bring the red icon back to life, villager Roger Hiley designed and installed a new tile floor in the box.

He drew his inspiration from the surrounding landscape.

He said: "The mural stone draws on the green of the Lakeland fells, the creamy whites of the Swaledale ewes and the ruddled red of the classic Herdwicks at show time," he said.

"The floor design also ties in with the Red Cross emblem to link to the neutrality and service commitment of those who give their time and efforts in the cause of the common good."

Mr Hiley, who is a member of the Vale of Lorton Community First Responders and will look after the box, said: "It's a brilliant landmark, midway between the pub, village hall and car park."

Martin Fagan, national secretary for the Community Heartbeat Trust charity, which undertook the project, said: "The use of redundant phoneboxes is both a life saver for the community and these iconic structures." BT's Adopt a Kiosk scheme has captured the imagination of people up and down the country since it was introduced in 2008.

Apart from the defibrillator kiosks, boxes have been turned into art galleries, a pub, colour therapy room, mini libraries, exhibitions and information centres.

Mark Johnson, programme manager at BT Payphones, said: "We couldn't let this 3,000th adoption pass without recognising such an achievement and it's so gratifying to see this village phonebox being given a new lease of life and being put to such good use once again."

Up to 100,000 people a year in the UK suffer from an 'out of hospital' sudden cardiac arrest making it one of the UK's largest killers.

The faster a victim gets medical help, the better the chances of survival. The availability of a defibrillator machine greatly increases the chances of surviving an attack.