



Sshh... it's so quiet in here!

By NICK WEBSTER

THIS is a rare sight — a rush to make a call at the least-used telephone box in Notts.

The traditional red kiosk in Hawksworth — population 100 — normally leads a very quiet life.

"It's not even used once a day — more like once a week," said Les King, BT's payphones media relations manager.

But workers at WB Stubbs Truck Manufacturers in the Notts village dispute the statistics which place the phone box at the bottom of the county usage table.

Engineer Nigel Carter, of Brick Kiln Lane, Mansfield, said staff had to use the phone box in Town Street because there was no public telephone at work.

'Needed'

"I am surprised," said Mr Carter, 34. "There are surely more phone calls made than they reckon.

"I use the phone box at least once a week and that's just me — there are 60 other people employed here.

"Whether it is the lowest used or not, it's still needed for emergencies, if nothing else."

One man who was not surprised at BT's figures was Steve Hadfield, the former chairman of Hawksworth parish meetings — he lives less than 20 yards from the red box.

"I cannot think of any household in Hawksworth that does not have a telephone,

"The box is not on the main road, which is the logical place to put it.

"And Town Street is a cul-de-sac, so there is no passing traffic."

BT's Mr King would not reveal the location of the most popular — and lucrative phone box — in Notts because of commercial confidentiality.

But he said the most used BT phone box in Britain is in London's Leicester Square, and the least used is at the foot of Mount Snowdon, in North Wales.



SEEING RED: Nigel Carter workmates claim Hawksworth's is more popular than BT's figure POSTPHOTO

CLOSE CALL: The least-used telephone box in Notts is unusually busy, thanks to (clockwise from back left) Nigel Carter, Mick Pritchett, John Whittham and Roger North, all of WB Stubbs POSTPHOTO 981519/23A BY JAMES MILLAR

MUSIC, MOVIE AND THEATRE NEWS IS IN TOMORROW'S POST



The least-used telephone box in Notts is unusually (clockwise from back left) Nigel Carter, Mick Pritchett, and Roger North, all of WB Stubbs
 POSTPHOTO 981519/23A BY JAMES MILLAR

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SEEING RED: Nigel Carter (left) and workmates claim Hawksworth's payphone is more popular than BT's figures suggest
 POSTPHOTO 981519/26A