

# Historic Red Telephone Boxes



## It's a Fact!

- ☎ The K6 Red Telephone Box was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935 to coincide with the Jubilee of King George V. Sadly the King did not live to see any such examples installed.
- ☎ Initially known as the 'Jubilee' Kiosk, some 70,000 examples were installed around the UK between 1936 to 1968.
- ☎ The classic red telephone box is celebrating its 70th year.
- ☎ Kiosk number 6 or K6, is the sixth British telephone box design, superseding its predecessors - although the K5 never went into production.
- ☎ The K6 kiosk is recognised on a global scale, along with double decker buses and pillar boxes...all red!
- ☎ K6 kiosks were produced in five foundries: Carron Foundry, Lion Foundry, McDowall Steven, Macfarlane (also known as Saracen Foundry) and Bratt Colbran.
- ☎ Some 2,500 examples of K6 have been granted 'grade II listings'.



- ☎ K6 kiosks equipped with interiors weigh three quarters of a tonne and stand an impressive eight foot four inches by three foot square.
- ☎ In the 30's it was not uncommon for a kiosk to be missing glass panes. A screwdriver could easily remove cast glazing frames to release precious glass, enough to glaze a coldframe!
- ☎ Telephone boxes are renowned for being red, however in the 1940's kiosks in a setting of 'particular natural beauty' were often painted Battleship Grey with red glazing bars. This was to 'blend in' more with the surroundings!
- ☎ K6 kiosks comprise 18 separate cast iron sections and are held together with exactly 200 screws. The units are either fabricated at the foundry or erected on site. Assembled kiosks were installed using crane units or purpose built kiosk trailers.
- ☎ 1952 saw the introduction of 'Elizabethan' crowned examples. Two years later it was noted that Queen Elizabeth II was not the second Queen of Scotland, thus modifications to the K6 were required. Interchangeable crowns were cast so that kiosks destined for 'North of the border' could sport the Scottish crown.
- ☎ Since being de-commissioned back in the early 1980's thousands of red telephone boxes had been smashed and weighed in for scrap until a reprisal in the nineties.
- ☎ Approximately 14,000 examples of K6 remain on our streets.



**Remember When is** a small family run business established back in 2001, dedicated to the preservation of the red telephone box. With a love and passion for the past, and over twenty years experience in the field of metal work restoration and painting techniques, they have put knowledge and skill into the preservation of one of England's finest portrayed and

☞ Red telephone boxes, the bane of certain organisations, yet highly recognised and appreciated by all nations, reflect our historic development in communications and architectural achievements. Designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the illustrious K6 kiosk, with its distinctive domed roof and geometric sculpture play a vital role in British heritage and culture, and have done so for the past 70 years.☞

*Carl Burge, Remember When UK*

immortalised architectural features.

Several variations of the K6 are available, including unrestored, diy project kiosks, museum specification kiosks (fully working models with 1930's interiors and working period telephones) along with fully restored models which carry their own unique photographic portfolio of the process of restoration.

A bespoke service is also offered, which includes personalisation such as a family surname or house name

as well as lockable doors, colour alterations and internal installations.

Kiosks can be sited at a customer's property, subject to a ground survey, and planning permission does not normally need to be obtained. The unique delivery and installation service is by one of their own restored ex GPO K6 kiosk trailers!

For further details of Remember When and their Red Telephone Boxes, visit their website at [www.redtelephonebox.com](http://www.redtelephonebox.com) or telephone them on 01553 770677.

## Back to Beautiful in 10 Steps

- 1 The kiosk is stripped prior to a thorough sandblast. This process removes all traces of paint and rust. It's then carefully checked for any integral faults and repaired if necessary by highly skilled welders.
- 2 The kiosk is coated in a special transport primer before being transported back to workshops.
- 3 After a further inspection, all joints and casting imperfections are filled and sanded. The box is then blown off with compressed air.
- 4 The kiosk is cleansed with a degreasing fluid, and 'tacked off' with a dust and particle absorbent 'tack-rag.' Three coats of primer are applied by spray gun.



- 5 The primer is allowed to harden. The kiosk is then sanded, blown off with compressed air, and cleansed with a degreasing fluid. The structure is 'tacked off' with a dust and particle absorbent 'tack-rag.' Three coats of 'Post Office Red' are applied by spray gun.
- 6 The internal roof is resprayed in gloss white for illumination purposes.
- 7 The kiosk is then fully glazed with security glass. All ancillary components, including the internal light are checked, cleaned and refitted.
- 8 The door undergoes similar treatment through steps 1-5. It's hung on new brass hinges and aligned. The push/pull panel and outer chrome door handle are installed.
- 9 The internal door closure mechanism is installed and tested.
- 10 All glazing is cleaned, paintwork polished and Crowns hand painted with Gold pearl.

