

Making a call is my very own bushtucker trial!

by Vicky Castle

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Covered in thick foliage and buried deep into the hedgerow, entering this phone box in St Michaels has been compared to 'something from the I'm A Celebrity' television show.

Town councillor Sue Ferguson, who posted the picture on social media, said closing the door of the dark, dingy kiosk felt like braving a bushtucker trial challenge from the ITV programme.

She said: "It's really dark and scary in there, when you are inside you can hardly see out."

"If you were slightly scared of insects you really wouldn't want to be in there. It was quite horrible to go inside."

"It felt like one of those awful things from I'm A Celebrity – it would be one their terrible tasks to actually shut the door!"

In the popular reality show, contestants perform tricky or terrifying tasks – bushtucker trials – to win food and treats for their camp and most of the challenges involve creepy crawlies.

Three sides of the phone box

are covered by the overgrowth and Mrs Ferguson said she 'can't imagine' what insects are in there.

The kiosk next to the Fat Ox pub still works but as most people have a mobile phone now, it is rarely used.

The phone company's production of telephone boxes ended altogether in 1985 with the advent of the KX series phones and many kiosks around the country have been broken and abandoned.

Mrs Ferguson added: "I tweeted pictures of it to BT showing what a state it was in and they actually replied to say they would get this sorted, so well done BT for wanting to do something about it."

A tweet from someone called Dee at BT Care said: "I certainly wouldn't use it! Hopefully they'll get the jungle cut back soon to free the poor thing!"

■ **What do you think? Is this Kent's scariest phone box? Would you close the door? Write to Kentish Express, 34-36 North Street, Ashford, TN24 8JR or email kentishexpress@thekmgroup.co.uk**



Sue Ferguson said entering the phonebox felt like one of the bushtucker trials from I'm A Celebrity; left, the tweets with BT; far left, the telephone box



CELEBRITIES FACE SERIES OF TV SHOW CHALLENGES

Hosted by Geordie presenters Ant and Dec, the reality show I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! first aired in 2002.

It takes celebrities to live in jungle conditions with few creature comforts in New South Wales, Australia.

The Bushtucker Trials are a key element of the show with viewers voting for the celebrity they would like to complete a trial – a physical task usually involving snakes, spiders or other jungle creepy-crawlies.



Singer George Shelley undergoes a bushtucker trial in I'm A Celebrity; left, presenters Ant and Dec

Pictures: ITV



Bushtucker trials allow the contestants to gain food and treats for camp. They take two formats – eating trials, or physical/mental tasks.

The eating trials see contestants forced to eat a variety of different "jungle" foods, with each dish successfully eaten gaining a star (meal) for the camp.

The dishes can include crickets, mealworms, witchetty grub and kangaroo testicles.

The physical or mental challenges see contestants perform activities such as searching through dung, going through tunnels, being buried or negotiating obstacles on high wires to gain stars.