

## BOLSOVER READING GROUP READING EXERCISE

### Bolsover Telephone Exchange

I expect most of you will have seen this stone in the wall on High Street by the sorting office where the Telephone Exchange was built in 1950.

Before that the telephone operated from the sitting room of Mrs. Anne Hall's house at 41 Hilltop, where it sat on the little packing case in which it had been delivered. There had to be at least 10 subscribers before an exchange was allowed.



Bolsover Telephone Exchange stone seen in Esther's film 'a ROLE to PLAY'

Subscribers could ring Anne Hall and she would put through their call. If you did not subscribe you could go to the house and call from Anne's sitting room. The only time it was ever busy was when there was a disaster at Markham Colliery.

1. How would having a telephone exchange in the town have affected the lives of the families living in Bolsover? Think of as many ideas as you can.
2. What does 'having 10 subscribers' tell you about the population of Bolsover?
3. Do you think Anne Hall enjoyed her job? Give reasons.