I’ve been with the RNLI 20 years in May and have had a variety of supporting administrative posts within Engineering and Supply.

My initiation into the RNLI was in the Shoreworks Department where, in collaboration with Operations, the design and construction of the lifeboat stations was managed. I was supporting to manage budgets for new builds, as well as upkeep and maintenance of existing stations by raising purchase orders for Consultancy Services (Architects, Structural Surveyors) to materials – slipway rollers and ironmongery for door furniture.

It was there where I gained the most geographical knowledge and learnt where most of the lifeboat stations were – even the very remote ones – for instance Barra in the Outer Hebrides, as well as random Engineering terms (Schlegel Rollers springs to mind)!

I was able to reconcile the budget to specific aspects of a project and could see financially how much a feasibility study (to determine if the proposed location was suitable) would cost and what it actually consisted of i.e. borehole drilling to determine the soil structure the foundations of the lifeboat station would be pummeled into!

I also found it fascinating to experience the complete, often lengthy, and sometimes challenging process. From going reviewing feasibility to completion, the final snagging and contract payment, the Health and Safety files would finally be handed over!

It satiated my inquisitiveness into Marine Engineering (when I was younger, I wanted to be an Aircraft Engineer but circumstances prevailed) but I must admit I do get excited when I see a schema and Micrometer!!

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Did you know that 1 million bars of chocolate are produced in the UK every day? But how does chocolate get that ‘snap’? QEPrize Ambassador Steve Maughan shows a tasty experiment you can do at home to explore the tempering process of your favourite snack!

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