



UNIT 26 : SUPPORT MATERIAL

WORKING IN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

After some government help when the organisation was setup since 1869 it has been entirely voluntarily funded. Most of the lifeboat men and women are voluntary which means that money spent on the service can very largely go into operations and purchase of equipment.

There are lifeboat stations around the coast of Great Britain and Ireland (see next page for map).

In a typical year the Lifeboat crews are called out nearly 7,000 times (18 times a day). The lifeboats bring in an average of (18 people a day, 4 of whom would probably have lost their lives if the RLNI has not rescued

them.

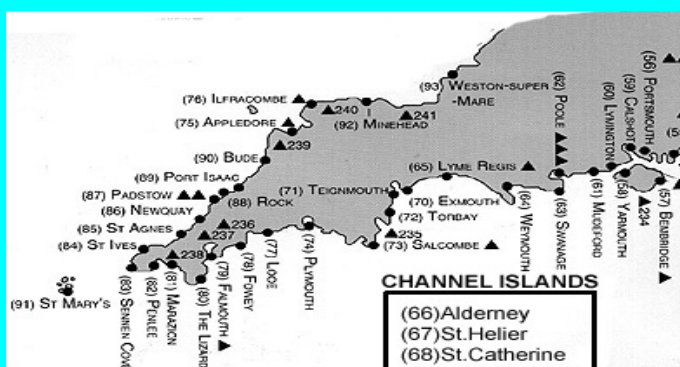
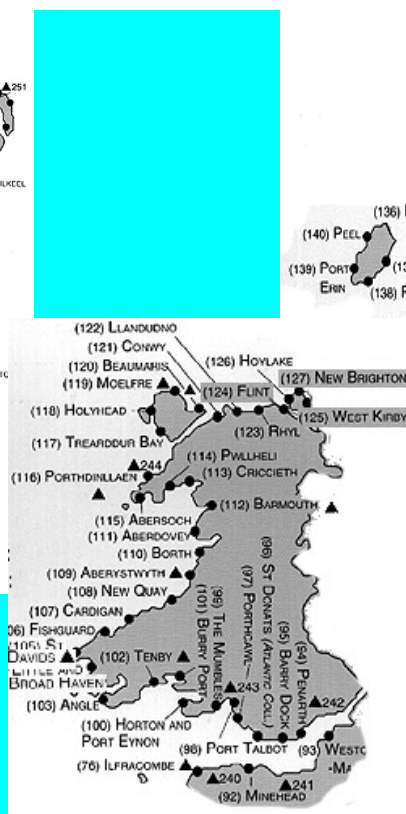
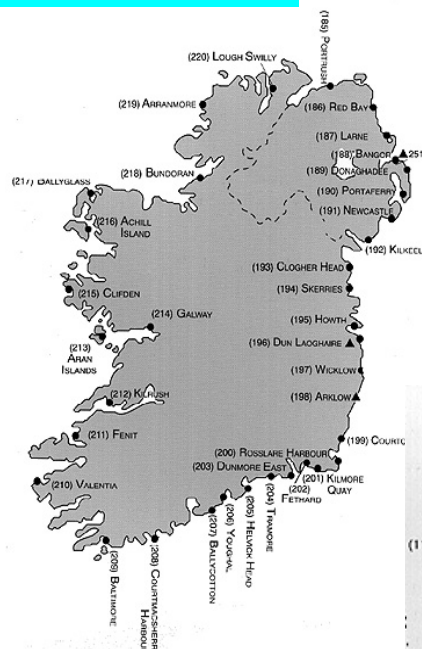
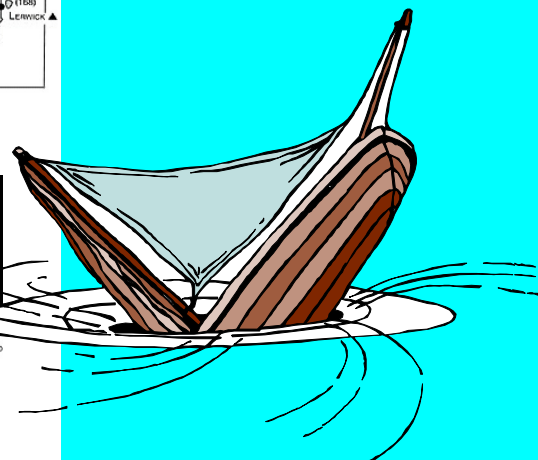
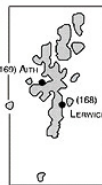
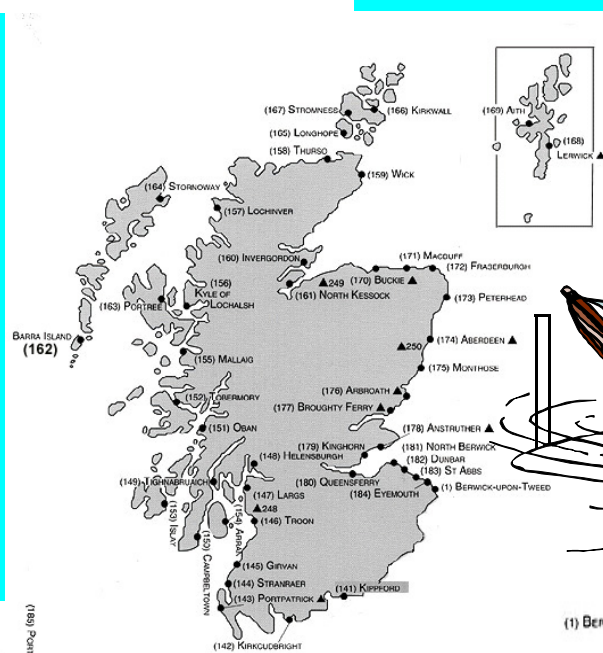
Although the job of a Lifeboat crew is extremely dangerous there is usually no shortage of people willing to serve in them. The usual crew of a Lifeboat is about 7 of which only one usually is full time (usually the motor mechanic).

The crews are committed to going out in all weathers to save lives. Approximately 115,000 people have been saved by the RLNI since being founded.

If it were not the voluntary basis of the organisation it would be prohibitively expensive to provide a similar level of service from public expenditure.



MAP OF LIFEBOAT STATIONS



CHANNEL ISLANDS

(66) Alderney
(67) St. Helier
(68) St. Catherine

RED CROSS



The full title of the Red Cross is the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, is a humanitarian agency with nationally affiliated societies in most countries of the World. It was originally founded to provide care for victims of battle in war time but recently it has widened its scope of operations to include relief of human suffering generally.

Activities include first aid, accident prevention, water safety, blood banks, medical clinics, and child welfare centres.

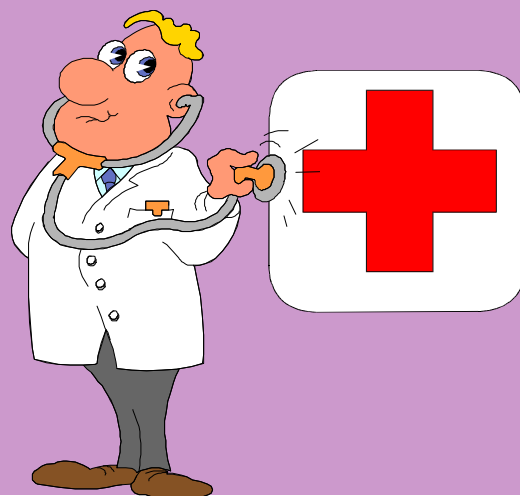
The Red Cross was founded by a Swiss Jean-Henri Dunant, a humanitarian who in 1859 organised emergency aid services for French and Austria soldiers wounded in battle. Its headquarters is in Geneva.

The UK organisation is called the British Red Cross. In the British Isles it supports the statutory services at the scenes of major emergencies (train crashes, floods) by providing first aid and welfare services to victims and their families.

The work is carried out by a network of some 80,000 volunteers, who maintain their skills by delivering services to vulnerable people in their local communities. These services include helping the elderly and infirm on discharge from hospital, short term loan of medical equipment, or helping reunite families.

This organisation raises most of its own funds with some help from government but it is entirely independent of government.

The organisations are known as the Red Cross in predominantly Christian and Red Crescent in Muslim countries.





Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

VSO enables men and women to work alongside people from poorer countries to share skills, build capabilities and promote understanding. This is a Commonwealth Organisation.

Since it started in 1958 it has placed 27,000 expert people in developing countries to pass on their knowledge and expertise to provide sustainable improvements in those countries. It currently has 1,800 volunteers in about half the World's poorest countries, and more recently in the countries of Eastern Europe.

VSO is a charity and those who serve do so freely as volunteers. They volunteer for typically one or two years and the emphasis is on qualified people who not only practice their field but can teach others to carry on after they leave.

Here are a few of the jobs currently on offer in Africa.

Animal Research Officer - Gambia

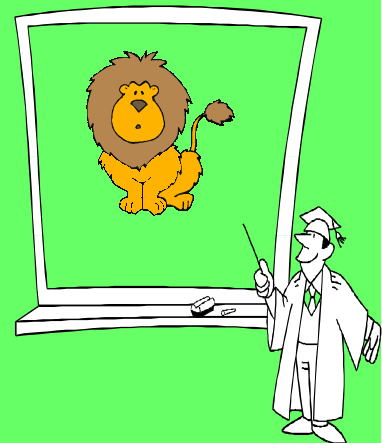
Requires a masters degree in animal husbandry/nutrition, to advise and develop s research and development program in animal production in a new institute.

Computer Science Lecturer - Kenya

A qualified teacher is required to upgrade the skills of students and colleagues at a large, well funded polytechnic.

Community Nurse - Kenya

RGN with 2 years community experience required to work in a mission hospital in West Kenya. Duties include outreach work and training of village educators.





St John's Ambulance

The St John's Ambulance organisation is a voluntary charity which provides first Aid cover at many events throughout the country. They are usually found at football matches concerts, indeed everywhere where there is an event which brings large numbers of people together. There is a young peoples' group in which you can become a St John's Ambulance Cadet. where many skills are taught which are useful for a future career including First Aid. The picture opposite shows a cadet helping a runner in the London marathon.



Police Special Constables

They are unpaid volunteers who assist the regular police force. The uniform and equipment are provided free and out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed. They are expected to provide four hours service per week and have to undergo extensive training.

Special Constables have the same powers, responsibility, uniform and equipment as a regular officer. Their duties could include foot patrol, car patrols, crime prevention work, schools liaison and helping at local events.



Specials receive structured training, both in the classroom and in the community, and ongoing help and support and require a good deal of enthusiasm.

Special Constables should be physically and mentally fit and aged between eighteen-and-a-half and 50, though older applicants may be allowed in certain circumstances. Applicants must be British subjects, Commonwealth citizens whose stay in the UK is not restricted, or citizens of the Irish Republic.