

# Notes & NEWS

## Gilbert and Sullivan at Reading: 'Rapture, rapture'

We continue our G+S tradition at Annual Conferences and in 2006 will build on last year's new format with a concert of favourite excerpts from several operettas. This year we have chosen to feature some favourites from *Ruddigore*, *Mikado*, *Iolanthe* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Singers for the chorus are welcome simply to turn up on the night, but if you want to sing a solo or duet please contact Phil Ramsden by e-mail at philramdsen@ase.org.uk. The Concert will be from 8-9 p.m. on Thursday 5th January.

## Interested in coaching and mentoring?

In partnership with the Centre for Science Education at Sheffield Hallam University, the National Science Learning Centre, Institute of Human Development and the Science Council, ASE is developing a pilot study to explore the potential benefits of establishing a network of coaches and mentors (who may be retired, semi-retired or practising teachers) to support science teachers.

The aim of the initiative is to complement other forms of professional development and to add the personal touch. Coaches/mentors working with science teachers of all levels of experience and expertise (or lack of) will provide support for individuals to develop their personal and professional capabilities, career aspirations and goals by offering them,

through coaching and mentoring, a vehicle for analysis, reflection and action that will help them achieve success in their work (and lives).

If you are interested in finding out more or acting as a coach or mentor, then please read and complete the questionnaire enclosed with this issue of *EiS*. Alternatively, go to [www.ase.org.uk](http://www.ase.org.uk) to retrieve, complete and submit a form electronically. Any further queries can be addressed to the Editor, derekbell@ase.org.uk, in the first instance.

## Online resources from SEP

The Science Enhancement Programme (SEP) is committed to improving science education through professional training and practical activities and, to further that aim, has launched a brand new website to provide online access to its range of teaching resources.

The new site has a fresh, modern look with simple site navigation to ensure that resources are easy to find and use. It is divided into a number of key open-access areas with information about SEP and its activities, but the main feature is the Resource Bank, which provides exclusive online access to a wealth of teaching resources, covering a wide range of science curriculum subjects from 11-16 and beyond.

One of the primary objectives of SEP is the development of innovative resources at low cost, with apparatus and experiments tackling the latest scientific developments in areas such

as new materials, energy and sports science.

Work is also under way to create a further site dedicated to teachers and their pupils, to provide enhanced support both in and out of the classroom. SEP has commissioned state-of-the-art animations and video for use in lessons, to support and enhance new schemes of work and classroom resources for topics including electricity and energy. This site will be available towards the end of this year.

Visit the new SEP website at [www.sep.org.uk](http://www.sep.org.uk) or e-mail [sep@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sep@kcl.ac.uk) for further information.

## Science Video Network

The Science Video Network is a network of approximately 200 schools that regularly exchange and share video material under the terms of the ERA licence (see *SSR*, September 2004). Material can be used to create PowerPoint presentations and to improve general classroom delivery of topics. The Network has a huge range of clips and programmes covering most topics in physics, chemistry and biology. If you need a clip (and you can wait 14 days), then the SVN is a good first point to contact. Alternatively, you can go to one of their 'swap events' where teachers exchange good video material with each other. At the very successful gathering in July at Brentwood School in Essex, most people managed to fill up a portable hard drive with mpeg material! To find out more visit [www.sciencevideonetwork.org](http://www.sciencevideonetwork.org).

## International development charity VSO is urgently seeking French-speaking science teachers for voluntary work in Rwanda.

VSO has been working in Rwanda since 1997, when the government asked the charity to help re-build the education system after the genocide during which two-thirds of teachers were killed or exiled. Rwanda is now a peaceful country and over 100 VSO volunteers have worked there in the past nine years. The science teacher role will involve teaching A-level students chemistry, as well as some teaching of lower levels, organising professional workshops for colleagues and setting up after-school science clubs.

More information on this role and others with VSO is available at [www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk) or call 020 8780 7500.



# small Ads

**FREE report writing software** and GCSE Sc 1 mark calculator (for Windows), direct from the author. Download and use freely from: [www77.pair.com/raylec/](http://www77.pair.com/raylec/) or e-mail the author for further information: [Raylec@compuserve.com](mailto:Raylec@compuserve.com)

**Ideas for Education** We make and repair Van der Graaf generators and can supply belts, combs, etc. for many models old and new. Our diffusion Cloud Chambers have a built-in illuminant and are easily set up and adapted to accept 'old' sources. £27.50 + VAT + postage.

Details from Dennis Beard, Ideas for Education, Dromard House, Kesh, Co. Fermanagh BT93 1RW.  
Phone/fax: 028 6863 1209.

**LabAid** (in Amersham, Bucks.) sends your donated apparatus to help science education overseas. We need your help nationally and locally. Please do not throw good apparatus into skips. Instead, please donate unwanted science equipment.

With your offers and for further details, please contact Alan Welch MBE by voice or fax on 01494 726861 or e-mail: [labaidtrust@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:labaidtrust@yahoo.co.uk)

**For sale:** 3 x Dream Writers and a charger (Data Harvest); 1 x wall hanging barometer (Griffin & George). No reasonable offers refused. Contact Mrs Allen at Rooks Heath High School, Eastcote Lane, Harrow HA2 9AG.

**Essential rocks** for the National Curriculum: For £30, including delivery to anywhere in the UK (N & NE Lincolnshire £20; Hull, ER & Lincolnshire £25), you will receive 30 boxes, each containing Basalt, Chalk, Granite, Limestone, Millstone grit and Slate; notes which can be photocopied; and a tin of small pieces.

A 'Box B' is also available at £1.50 each. 'Box B' contains Fluorspar, Shale, Fossiliferous material, Calcite, Quartz and a crystal of Rock Salt.

For further information or if you wish to order, please write to J. M. Daggar, 16 Crakedale Road, Winterton, North Lincolnshire DN15 9UT. (Over 400 orders have been delivered to date.)

**Snowdonia** Lovingly restored period home nestling between forest and river in beautiful, unspoilt valley. All mod and trad cons. Sleeps six for only £280 per week including school holidays. Details on 0208 343 9015.

## Rates for Small Ads

The rate to members for small advertisements is 25 pence per word. There is a minimum charge of £5.00 per insertion.

Advertisements should be sent, with the appropriate remittance, to the Executive Editor at ASE Headquarters.

## Summer School in the Canary Islands

The European Association for Astronomy Education is holding its tenth Summer School for primary and secondary teachers from 3rd to 9th July 2006 in Santa Cruz de La Palma. Around 60 European teachers will attend general lectures, working groups, workshops and observational sessions in astronomy. The event is not aimed at experts and the presentations will be in English. The closing date for registration is 30th April and the approximate cost of registration and accommodation is 750 Euros. British Council support may be available. Contact: [Alan\\_C\\_Pickwick@btinternet.com](mailto:Alan_C_Pickwick@btinternet.com) (Tel: 0161 973 6796).

## Plants in Primary Science

Lightbanks for fast plants available for sale on 0208 989 1793 or e-mail [lightbanks@hotmail.com](mailto:lightbanks@hotmail.com)

**Scienceshirts** 3 Peterborough Avenue, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6EB, telephone 01572 755371, supply T-shirts and sweatshirts with chemistry (some luminous), physics, biology, recycling and music designs. Ties: DNA, physics and four chemistry designs. Mousepads for chemistry and physics. DNA and elements ladies scarves. Special for chemists: tea-towels, mugs, modelling books, pullout PT pens, unusual/historic periodic tables. Science Pioneers tea-towel. Further details in brochure or [www.scienceshirts.co.uk](http://www.scienceshirts.co.uk) E-mail: [enquiries@scienceshirts.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@scienceshirts.co.uk)

## New from ASE – Primary UPD8

Activities for 7–11 year-olds which use topical events to create uniquely engaging science lessons to:

- Make the science curriculum more relevant and exciting
- Make teaching 'scientific enquiry' skills more compelling and accessible
- Make learning memorable and achieve better SATs results
- Support literacy and numeracy and make great assembly material.

UPD8 activities cover all science topics and QCA units for 7–11 year-olds. They are designed to take advantage of your interactive whiteboard.

Annual subscription for a bank of archive activities and one new activity each week during term time costs £120. **Discounts for ASE members.**

[www.primaryupd8.org.uk](http://www.primaryupd8.org.uk)

**Primary UPD8** and **Science UPD8** are ASE projects in partnership with the Centre for Science Education, Sheffield Hallam University

