



FOUNDED 1919

EASTBOURNE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Spring Symposium

INCORPORATING SBKA AGM



Sussex Beekeepers' Association

Spring Symposium

Incorporating SBKA AGM

2017

Herstmonceux Village Hall

Saturday 4th March

Admission Free

(Donations to Friends of Eastbourne Hospital would be appreciated.)

Light Refreshments

Trade Stands

Lectures

AGM

www.sussexbee.org.uk

PROGRAMME

13:00 Hall Opens

13:15 Trade Stands

14:15 SBKA AGM

15:00 Dr Mike Williams - The bee sting, how it works and its effect on humans and particularly their immune system.

15:30 Anaphylactic Shock – Steve Rochester

16:00 Tea, Questions & Discussion

16:30 Managing Aggressive Colonies – Jonathan Coote

17:00 Questions

17:30 Close

The organisers reserve the right to change the published agenda should any unforeseen circumstances arise. Please see the SBKA website for current details.

Forthcoming SBKA Events

20th May 2017 - Festival of Beekeeping

25th November – SBKA Convention

More details from www.sussexbee.org.uk/events

Forthcoming National Events

7th, 8th & 9th April - 2017 BBKA Spring Convention

SPEAKERS



Dr Mike Williams. Mike an East Sussex Hospital Group Consultant. He specialises in maxillofacial surgery and is a Royal College of Surgeons Examiner. He is an Eastbourne BKA member and manages 15 colonies. He has completed 6 out of 7 modules and modestly aspires eventually to be a Master Beekeeper.



Steve Rochester is Head of Resuscitation at East Sussex Hospital Trust and has dedicated his career to ensuring the survival of trauma victims.



Jonathan Coote is a Past President of SBKA and Chairman of Eastbourne BKA.

TRADE STANDS



Mantell Farm – a small-scale family business selling poultry and bee equipment.

www.mantelfarmshop.co.uk

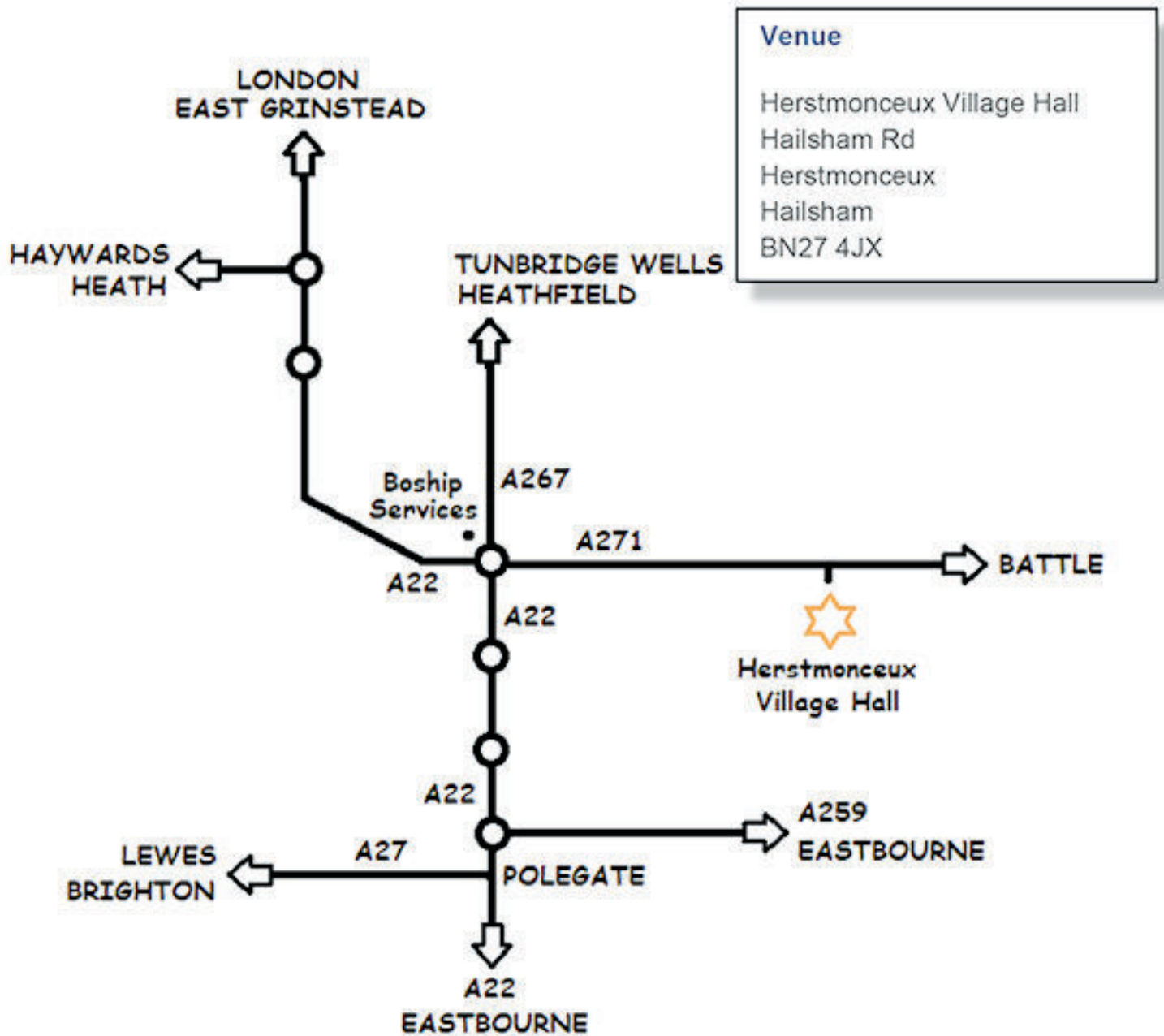
01424 830357



The Bee People - Keeping bees and supplying equipment to beekeepers since 1984.

<http://www.thebee-people.co.uk>

01323 841249



By Car

Herstmonceux Village Hall is located on the A271 approximately 4.4 miles east of Boship Farm Roundabout, Hellingly on the A22 Hailsham Bypass.

Bees Beekeeping and Stings

Many of you will have read about the great increase in recent years of people suffering from the effects of allergies of one sort and another, many very real and some psychosomatic or imagined.

As beekeepers we expose ourselves voluntarily and with fairly high frequency to a particular form of allergy, that arising from exposure to bee venom, from stings. On the bright side it always surprises me when I talk to fairly new members who tell me with glee that they have just had their first sting, as if it was some sort of rite of passage. The surprise comes from asking them how long it has taken for this to happen, in some cases a complete season or more after they have started.

Some proudly say that they have never been stung.

The problem is that until you have had one, or several stings, or alternatively several thousand, you have no idea how your body's immune system might react. It surprised me to read an article in the BBKA newsletter in January, which probably originated in one of the specialist journals dealing with allergic reactions, that over 4000 people in the UK were treated last year for the most extreme sort of reaction, called anaphylactic shock, arising just from bee and wasp stings alone. There don't seem to be separate statistics for how many of these were beekeepers but I suspect quite a few were. Left untreated a person affected in this way has a substantial risk of serious harm or even dying.

On 4 March EBKA is organising a Special Symposium on behalf of Sussex Beekeepers Association which will be held at Herstmonceux Village Hall and will be looking at these issues and how they might affect us as beekeepers.

We hope also to have time to give some thought about how to deal with the situation if your bees change from being docile to being aggressive where obviously the risks of being stung increase.

Full information will appear about the meeting elsewhere in the newsletter and I hope that as many as possible of you will come along, not only to learn about how to recognise the symptoms if a sting has triggered off such a reaction but more importantly to know what to do, particularly if it is someone else nearby who is affected rather than yourself.

Those of you, like me, who have had very many stings because we have been keeping bees for decades, are not without risk of it happening one day.

I have calculated that I have probably had something over three or maybe four thousand stings since I started. I haven't been counting but I suspect it must be somewhere near that.

So I shall certainly be interested in finding out from the experts whether that gives me some sort of special immunity or whether in fact at some point my body will say 'enough is enough' and I find myself a victim.

I remind myself that hardly a year goes by without an expert lion tamer or crocodile handler dying in the course of his or her activities, usually because they became complacent or just through bad luck.

Obviously bees are not lions but anaphylactic shock is a killer. Quite possibly, more beekeepers than expert lion tamers die, or are seriously harmed, each year as a result of it.

Jonathan Coote Chairman Eastbourne BKA