

THE SCYTHER ASSOCIATION OF BRITAIN & IRELAND

was formed in 2011, only 2000 years after the arrival of the scythe in the British Isles . . .

These islands are blessed with one of the best grass-growing climates in the world, so grass-land management has always been a necessary activity, whether for feeding livestock through the winter by haymaking, or for keeping on top of lawns, cricket pitches and wayside weeds.

In the past workers were trained in the proper handling of the English scythe, but after WW2 scythes were replaced by noisy and temperamental petrol-powered machinery. In the last decade the Austrian scythe has arrived in the UK. A traditional yet modern and versatile tool, it is light and easy to use, yet giving scope for ever-improving levels of skill and pleasure.

Scythes are once again being used in public parks and gardens, wildlife reserves, stately homes and allotments, on riverbanks and haymeadows throughout the islands. From the Home Counties to the Outer Hebrides, the scything revival is flourishing, not least because of its benefits to health - fresh air and exercise, the quiet enjoyment of nature, and the sense of satisfaction that comes from real work done well. The environmental benefits are too many and obvious to list here, but crucial nonetheless.

As a testament to the scythe's many enjoyable aspects, a lively social network has sprung up with events, festivals and courses around the country and keen participants from all walks and ages of life. It is this natural Association which SABI exists to support and foster, and we hope you too will join us.

The Aims of The Scythe Association:

- To promote the use of scythes in Britain
- To improve mowing skills through training and the broadcast of information
- To promote the advantages of the scythe to government, local authorities and national organizations
- To enhance communication amongst mowers and between mowers and landowners and other sectors
- To promote the study of the history of the scythe and allied technologies
- To maintain standards of manufacture and supply of scythes and ancillary equipment



Membership benefits include:

- Personal invitation to regional events
- Local and national networking and training opportunities
- Downloadable leaflets and information
- Googlegroup news and blog access; email links to media articles on scything
- A membership card and handsome badge

Membership is open to all, and runs annually from the AGM in June (West Country Scythe Festival date)

-----Please cut along this line, post the form and retain the rest of this leaflet for information.-----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Your Name:

Address:

Town

County / Postcode

Email address

How would you prefer to keep in touch with the Association? (tick as many as you wish to)

website news postings

'Windrow' newsletter (sent as pdf by email)

facebook

by email (google group)

by post

Do you belong to any organisations or companies relevant to your use of scythes?

I enclose a cheque* for £10 for annual subscription to next June or

I am renewing my subscription to next June.

I enclose 10 Euros in cash (Irish members)

Signature:

Date:

Please return this form with your cheque to The Membership Secretary at the address overleaf.

*Payment by cheque, (made out to Scythe Association of Britain & Ireland) postal order or cash only at present.