

Group Scythe Workshops with Steve Tomlin

The scythe is a modern, lightweight and simple tool suitable for all ages which will enable your group to manage vegetation including grass, weeds, bramble and more in areas where machinery is not possible or unsuitable. There is no need for protective equipment and the lack of noise enables workers to engage with any visiting public as well as the surroundings.

The scythe is a safe and efficient tool when used correctly; a training course held at your venue will enable your group to learn the necessary skills under expert tuition tailored to your conditions.

About Me

I first learned to use a scythe in the Pyrennes in 2001 and was instantly hooked by it's efficiency and ergonomics. I am a founder member and Training Coordinator for the Scythe Association (Britain & Ireland) and have spent time in Europe working with scythe experts in Austria and elsewhere. Since beginning to teach in 2010, I have taught several hundred people to scythe, am recognised as the leading scythe teacher in the UK and the author of the ['Learn to Scythe' book](#).

In addition to my own courses in mowing and peening, I am an instructor for new scythe teachers and have taught the use of the scythe for the RHS, National Trust, Highgrove Estate, BBC Countryfile with John Craven and ITV's Countrywise with Paul Heiney. You can find out more by visiting my website: <http://stevetom-lincrafts.wordpress.com/learn-to-scythe>

Outline of the Course

The focus of the 'Learn to Mow' course is practical skills and learning-by-doing to send people away ready to continue on their own.

The course day runs from 10 – 4:30pm and will cover the following topics:

- Features and advantages of the Austrian scythe
- How to set up the scythe to your size & adjust the blade
- Ergonomic mowing style for more efficient cutting and less stress on the body
- Sharpening in the field
- Peening (hammering the blade to shape the edge as part of the sharpening process)
- Care & maintenance

The one day course includes a short demonstration and explanation of peening while the two day course has a full half day session on peening which includes hands-on practise which is invaluable in learning the skills and gaining confidence. If your group is unlikely to have more training I would recommend booking a two day course to have this additional training.

Equipment & Requirements

I will provide the scythes, whetstones and peening equipment. You will need to provide:

- ☐ A shelter/ room with chairs for setting up the scythes and the peening.
- ☐ Grass to cut! The ideal is a small area of lawn or previously-mown grass for our initial exercises along with an area of clean meadow grass for the mowing. Six students need approximately 500m² depending on conditions. Don't worry if your grass isn't perfect – my aim is to teach you how to use the scythe in your specific situation, whatever that is. Contact me if you need to discuss this further.
- ☐ The height of each student to enable me to bring the right sized scythes.
- ☐ Tools for clearing the cut grass (rakes, forks, wheelbarrows etc).

In addition, for the two day course (which includes the practical peening session):

- ☐ A hammer (any hammer of approx 600g, a claw hammer is fine) for each person
- ☐ A wooden block per person for the peening jig to be set in and chair. The block can be soft or hardwood, approx 12"+ diameter and 21" tall (based on 18" high chair seats)

Price (2017)

For up to 6 participants:

One day workshop £300

Two day workshop £550

Travel expenses to your location are charged at 42p/mile.

Up to two additional students can be booked at an additional cost of £80 per person (£100 for the two day workshops).

Deposit & Cancellation

A deposit of £100 is required to book your workshop. Payment of the deposit indicates agreement with these terms. In the event of cancellation, your refund can only be repaid if I am able to rebook the dates, less a £15 cancellation fee.

General information

Attendees will need to bring suitable clothing, including footwear, appropriate to the weather and ground conditions.

To discuss your workshop, please contact me at **stevetomlin8@gmail.com**