

# CHALLENGERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS GATHERING

## SMELT MILL IN THE BEAUTIFUL FOREST OF BOWLAND

17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026

SMELT MILL RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

TROUGH ROAD, DUNSOP BRIDGE, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE, BB7 3BH

**Arrival Time at the bunkhouse - Not before 16.00**

**Organisers: Graham Gledhill & 'Big' John Hutchinson**

**For more information about Smelt Mill see <http://smeltmill.org.uk>**



**\*\*\* FULL PACKAGE PRICE £65 per person \*\*\***

**Includes 2 nights bed & continental breakfast and 2 evening meals**

**\*\*\* THERE WILL BE NO SURCHARGES WHATSOEVER \*\*\***

### THE AIM OF THE WEEKEND:

A warm welcome awaits you, with fun and enjoyment at Smelt Mill to introduce Challengers to the club, whether or not you are thinking of joining the club. Come one, come all - Old Hands, First Timers and especially TGO East Participants who may not have a lot of experience. This is a great opportunity, not to be missed, to meet and talk at a small gathering with some of the people that actually make the TGO Challenge happen, plus other Challengers and club members named below. All the club members have all done numerous Challenges and have considerable Hill-Walking experience:

- \* Hamish Brown: The Founding Father of The Challenge and The Guru of the Munros.
- \* Sue Oxley: Co-Owner and Co-Ordinator of The Challenge.
- \* Pauline Marshall : One of the voices on Challenge Control, plus Chief Chef for the weekend.
- \* Graham Brookes: Challenge Vetter and veteran of 32 Challenges, plus Strenuous Walk Leader.
- \* Colin Crawford: Challenge Vetter, with a vast knowledge of The Challenge area.
- \* Dave Skipp: Club Chair.
- \* Graham Gledhill: Co-Organiser of the Gathering, plus Moderate Walk Leader.
- \* 'Big' John Hutchinson: Co-Organiser of the Gathering, Commis Chef and 'Award' Winning Baker.

All the above are willing to share their knowledge and experience regarding The Challenge, Hill Walking etc.

## INFORMATION OF WHAT TO EXPECT:

Smelt Mill is owned by the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team and is situated in a relatively unknown wilderness of Lancashire, which is a short distance from the village of Dunsop Bridge (the centre of the United Kingdom). Dunsop Bridge is home of the excellent Puddleducks Cafe, in the stunning Trough of Bowland with fell walks directly from the property or further afield - The Yorkshire Three Peaks and Pendle Hill are within a 40 minute drive.

**We have EXCLUSIVE use of Smelt Mill,  
which accommodates 28 people in 9 rooms - Rooms will be allocated  
(DUE TO INSURANCE, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING IS 28)**

- Pillows, pillowcases and bottom sheets are provided. Just bring your own sleeping bags or duvets and towels.
- **CARS:** Parking for about 8 cars, close to each other, on the roadside by the Mill, and 4 cars across the road. There are other places to park only a short walk away, but if you can car share that would be great
- **CAMPER VANS:** 4 small Camper vans can double park by the cattle grid. Camper vans can also use two lay-bys a 'moments' walk' from the Mill. Also camper vans can use a gravelled area by Langden Intake at the bottom of the hill away from the road, but this is also popular with the general public so it's first come, first served. If this area is used we will provide a shuttle service if required.
- **CAMPING** is allowed in the garden area for up to 6 back-packing tents.

**NOTE:** People sleeping in camper vans or camping pay the same fee as people sleeping in The Mill.

- Well behaved dogs are welcome in The Mill, but not on the furniture or beds.
- There is full central heating and a comfortable lounge with a log fire. The kitchen is professionally equipped and there is a multipurpose dining room and activity area. There is also an indoor climbing wall (supervised use only).
- A Warden will be on site in separate accommodation for support, but will not interfere.
- Continental breakfast is provided each morning and a 2 course meal is provided Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Please bring your own lunches / snacks for the weekend.
- Bring your own alcohol and drinks for consumption in The Mill.
- Big John will bake a selection of cakes for your delectation on arrival and after Saturdays walk and there'll even be a bottle of malt on the table!
- Tea, coffee, milk, sugar and a few packets of biscuits will also be provided for the weekend.

### Weekend Walks:

**Saturday** - There will be a strenuous led walk of about 15 miles and a more moderate led walk of about 10 miles.

**Sunday** - There will be a moderate led walk and if there is enough interest a more strenuous walk can be arranged.

- \* Route maps of all 4 walks will be Emailed out to all attendees before the weekend, but the walks are subject to change on the day for safety reasons.

Obviously, you are more than welcome to do your own walks, just fill in a route sheet before leaving.

If you are still undecided to come along, the club have had two meets at Smelt Mill in 2024 and 2025, so you maybe interested to see the photos on the club website in the 'past meets' section. The club members who have attended the meets at Smelt Mill have asked to go back again.

# **BOOKING FORM - SMELT MILL**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

<b>Please book the following places at £65 per person</b>	
<b>Name (1)</b>	<b>Name (2)</b>
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Email</b>	<b>Mobile Telephone</b>

**ACCOMMODATION CHOICE: BUNKHOUSE, CAMPER VAN OR CAMPING**

**NOTE:- Everybody has a bed available in the Bunkhouse, but some may prefer to use their camper van or camp, please indicate your choices below**

**BUNKHOUSE ... 1<sup>st</sup> Choice or 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice or 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice or Not at all**

**MIXED ROOM ... Y / N : MALE ROOM ONLY ... Y / N : FEMALE ROOM ONLY ... Y / N**

**CAMPER VAN (4 Spaces) ... 1<sup>st</sup> Choice or 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice or 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice or Not at all**

**CAMP (6 Spaces) ... 1<sup>st</sup> Choice or 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice or 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice or Not at all**

**Dietary requirements/allergies .....**

<b>Contact details in case of emergency</b>		
<b>Name (1)</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Name (2)</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Telephone</b>

## **HOW TO BOOK:**

**Payment: Either by bank transfer (preferred) or cheque.**

- 1) Initially please Email your Name, Mobile Number and your preferred method of payment to the Email address below.**
- 2) The information and booking form you require will be Emailed to you in word format to be completed and returned. If paying by bank transfer, for security reasons my bank details will be sent via WhatsApp, for cheques I will provide my address.**

**If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Big John at [hmwc2014@gmail.com](mailto:hmwc2014@gmail.com)**

**CLOSING DATE 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2026**