

Butterfly Fair and Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation will be held on **Saturday 28 April** from 10am to 4.30pm at St Erme Community Centre, Castle Field, Trispen, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9BD. We have renamed the event *The Butterfly Fair* because, over the years, this brilliant day has turned into so much more than just an AGM!

We stay at our usual venue because it is wonderful and perfect for everyone's needs. The location is very convenient, and you can find it opposite the large Honda garage, just off the A39 main road. We have held the price for another year and you have told us that we give excellent value for money. So, entry price on the door remains £7 (students £3.50), including pasty lunch, savouries, cakes, tea, coffee and squash. If you have been before, you will know that the food is unrivalled! There will be many stalls promoting our own work and that of many of our partner wildlife organisations in Cornwall. There will be lots of tempting things to purchase and our usual mega fund-raising raffle.



Matthew Oates

This year, we are delighted to welcome the legendary **Matthew Oates** as our headline speaker. Matthew has led a butterflying life. Naturalist, conservationist and passionate lover of poetry, he has devoted himself to

butterflies: to their observation, to singing their praises, and to ensuring their survival. Based on fifty years of detailed diaries, his book, 'In Pursuit of Butterflies' is the chronicle of this life. Matthew retires from his post as 'National Specialist on Nature' for National Trust two weeks before our Butterfly Fair. He says "I'm retiring to, rather than from. I plan to write, dream and muse. My best hours lie ahead." So we are expecting wonderful things from his talk: *His Imperial Majesty, the natural history of the Purple Emperor*.

Jenny Plackett is Butterfly Conservation's Senior Regional Officer for South West England and a great support to our branch. She will talk on the progress of *All the Moor Butterflies*. This Heritage Lottery funded project has just begun its second year and covers Bodmin Moor, Exmoor and Dartmoor, all of which hold nationally important populations of some of our most threatened butterfly and moth species.

Shaun Poland, CBC volunteer and moth & butterfly enthusiast, will give us a talk named *Butterflies and Moths - a historical flight*. This will be a wander through the wider human relationship with lepidoptera and how it has changed through time.

Jack Barton, a young naturalist and 3rd year Zoology student at the University of Exeter, is passionate about all wildlife, from seabirds to butterflies to wild flowers. Jack is a keen conservation volunteer and has endless enthusiasm and dedication for engaging and educating people about nature, and hopes to leave the world a richer place for wildlife and people. He will take us on *A whistle-stop tour of Costa Rican Wildlife*.



Jack Barton in Costa Rica, with an Io moth

There will be a not-to-be-missed musical interlude from regular volunteer and Chairman of Bodmin Folk Club, **Malcolm Pinch**. He will be performing his latest hits, inspired by his work with CBC!

Everyone is welcome to our Butterfly Fair, you don't have to be a member. We look forward to seeing you all there! Any questions about the Butterfly Fair should go to the organiser: Jo Poland (publicity@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk; 01872 540371).

Prospective new committee members should contact the Branch Secretary at least 21 days before the AGM: Alison Norris (secretary@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk; 01209 831116).