

Part 350 for Cathy's blog

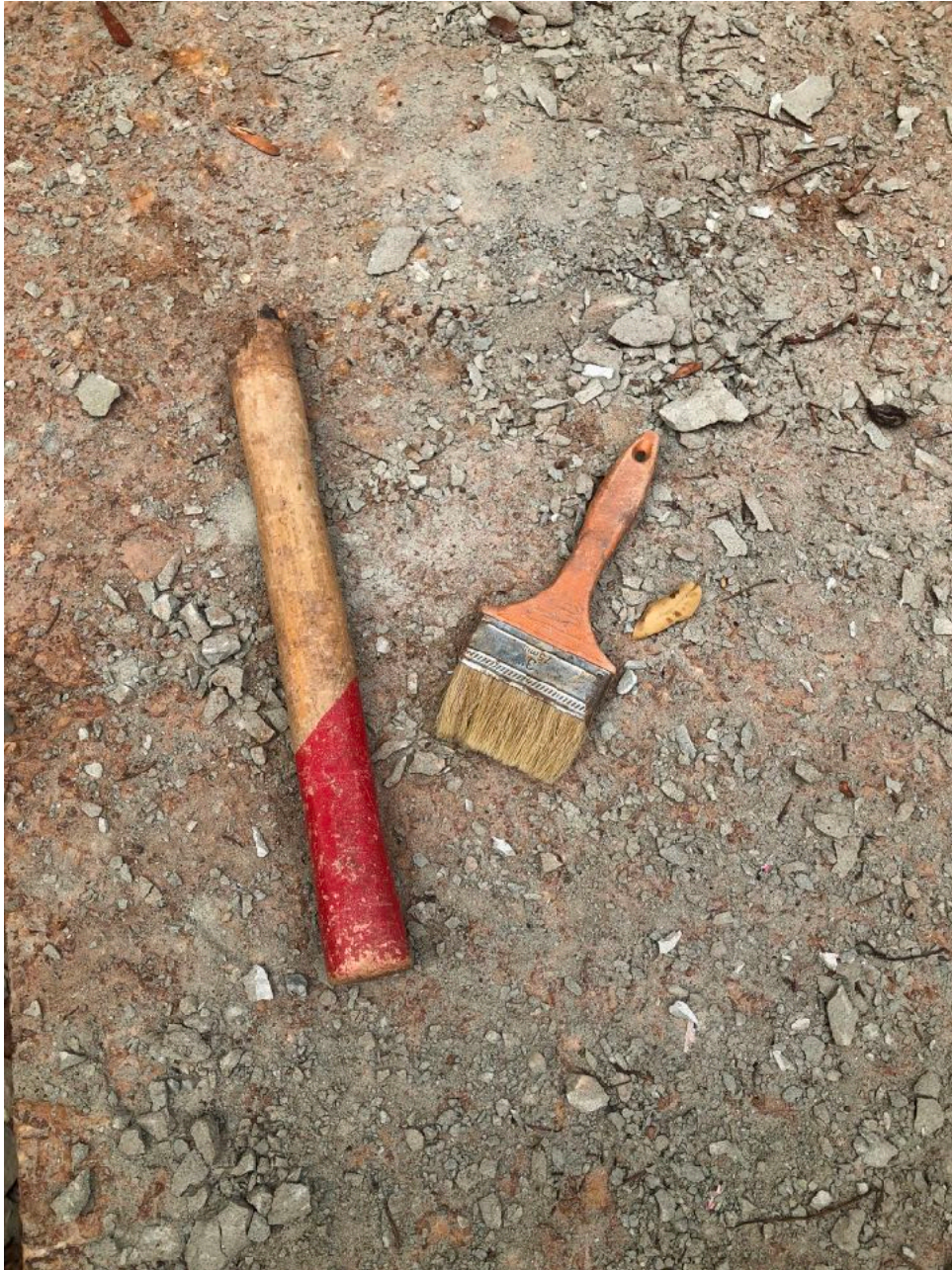
Friday May 1st 2026.

Temple Day : Eastern Terrace and Don Mao Temple



On the way out through the Victory Gate this morning, we saw these birds circling. The first thought I had was some kind of eagle, but a second look made me revise my guess to some sort of ibis.

At the Eastern Terrace and Pier (along the path from Don Mao), works are nearly complete on restoring the foundations of the steps down to the water (a now dry baray).



Tools!



The second lion has been repaired and is now waiting to go up on the pedestal.



A different angle.



This is the other lion, who was on his side when we first came here. The steps behind him have been levelled.

The platform just behind him and the one he is on have been rebuilt.



Repairs to the moonstone.



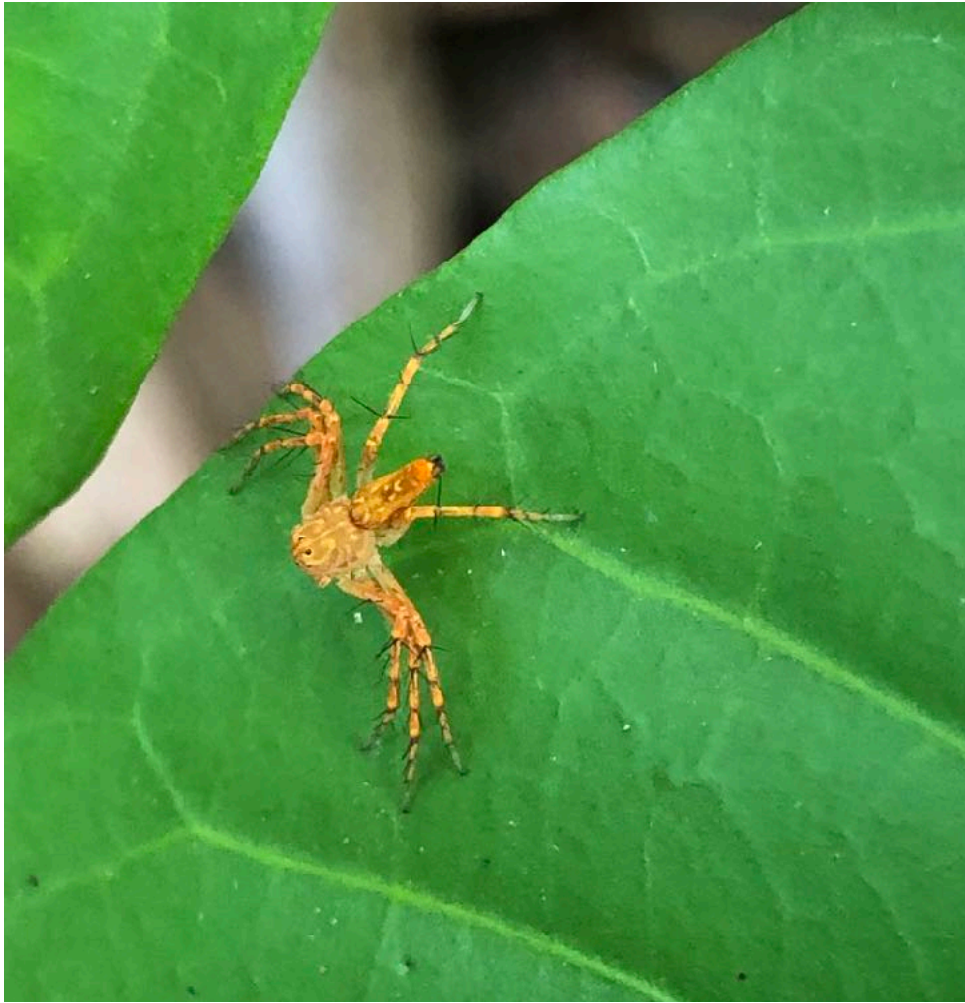
The site... an impressive walkway on steeply sloping ground.

There is also a laterite foundation of a building up amongst the thin trees behind these lions.

An interesting thing happens when we (and I mean David) writes up our temple visits and posts them (on Facebook etc). They do get noticed.

David's posts about the work happening at the Eastern Terrace and Pier (near Don Mao temple) have been commented on by the Stone Doctor, a worker charged with repairing the lions at this temple.

It was David's pleasure to send him more pictures of the excavations, as he only saw the site when it came time to repair the second lion (which was dug up recently).



A quiet day for wildlife, but up there is always something to see, like this orange spider.



And this striped spider (with breakfast?)

I think they are waiting for the rains.

Saturday May 2nd 2026.

Today we had the men in to service the air conditioner (which has taken to leaking “rivers” of water down the wall).

That means I needed the house clean and tidy. (They flushed water through the unit and tipped the water down the shower plug hole and left the whole bathroom wet!)

Sunday May 3rd May, 2026.

We changed our supermarket shopping day this weekend to Sunday.

It is not much of an inconvenience.

In the afternoon, we showered again (it is still hot and sweaty) and caught a Tuktuk in to Wat Damnak and the Centre for Khmer Studies. They had a book fair. There were lots of books for teenagers (in Khmer) but not much for kids and not much in English.

It was not surprising to meet my language teacher there.

We walked back to Khmer Grill for cold beer before catching another Tuktuk home.

We went out for tea at a small restaurant quite popular with expats. We met friends there (and David was pleased to secretly pay for their tea). Andy aka “Ginge”, is a British artist who has spent a lot of time and energy here in Siem Reap supporting services for Men’s mental health. He quickly turned to helping the refugees from the border (December, last year).

He has numerous small programs supporting individuals and causes. He also has an arts space and some goals regarding reducing plastic waste.

Check out **Smiling Creatives**, if you are interested.

It is oddly co-incidental to meet him at tea time, as we have an appointment to see him on Tuesday.

Monday May 4th, 2026.

Temple Day : North Gate to NE Prasat Chrung

It is important for us to keep up the walking. It is also important to get out everyday (or nearly every day).

The weather is a little kinder now and we are back walking the walls of Angkor Thom.



We parked the bike at the North Gate and we were greeted by three working girls. They invited us to join them for breakfast.



Curry, rice and pork, bread and pickles.

We declined (because we had already eaten and because I'm not sure my old tummy would appreciate curry for breakfast!) but it looked good.

It is typical of the local people. They talk to us. They share things (food) with us. They apologise for their English (which is still better than my Khmer!)

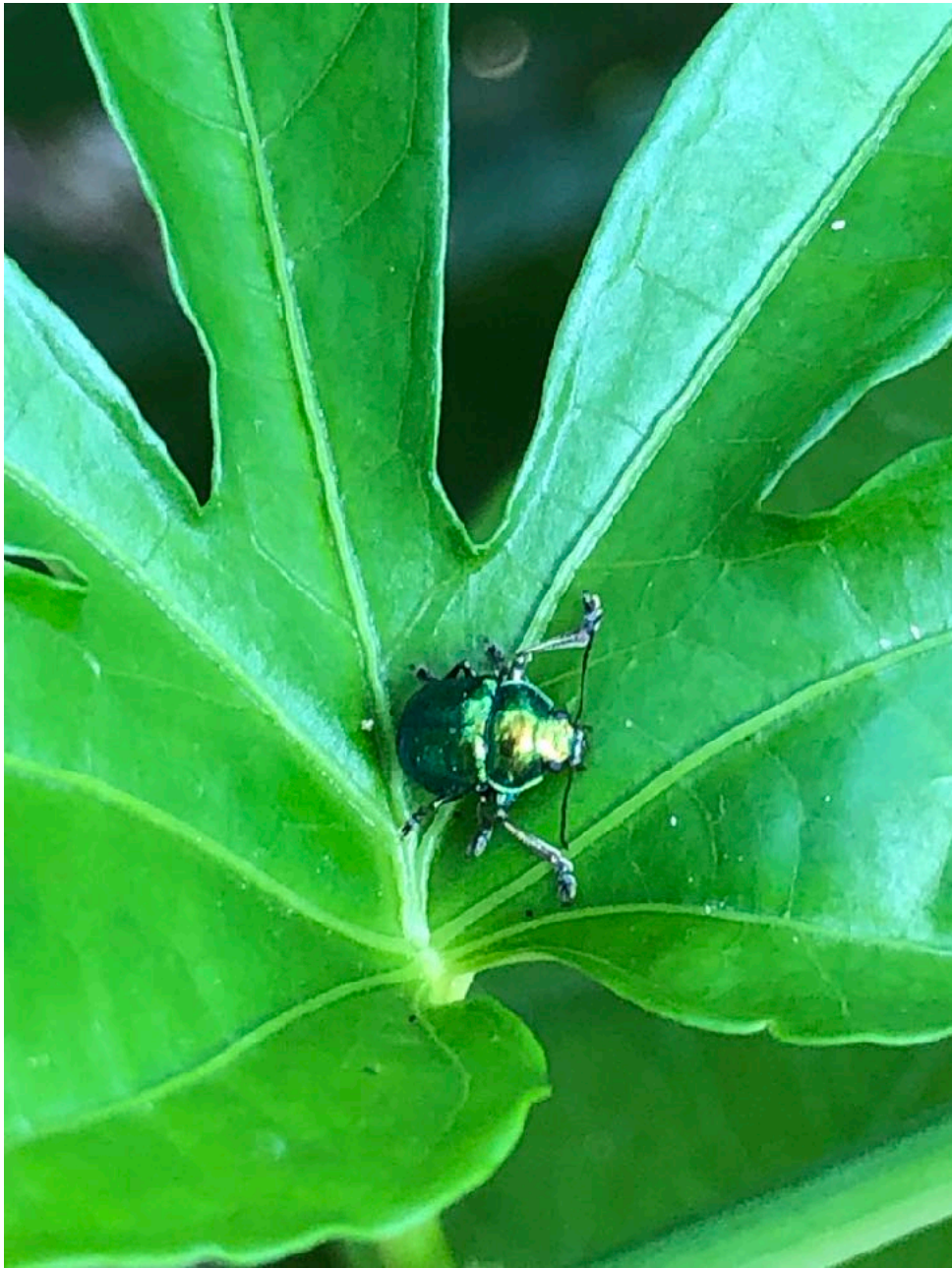
I am also conscious that this is their breakfast and it was bought for them, not for sharing with two (fat) westerners.

On with our walk and you can see these seedlings growing in a fresh buffalo dung pat.





Fallen fruit.



Pretty beetle.



And an interesting insect.



And a stick insect.



The north gate.

Near the gate, we found these funny moths.



“Three little maids from school are we...” comes to mind.