

Part 369 for Cathy's blog

Sunday 21st to Wednesday 24th June, 2026

Sunday 21st June, 2026.

Today we went to Spean Chivit. The name means "Bridge (to) Life". It is an NGO run by an Australian woman. She runs programs to help teenagers (and older) maximise their studying /leadership /opportunities etc.

One program running at the moment is a leadership program and the students are writing speeches (think "persuasive speeches" and you have the idea). It is hard for one or two volunteers to get around to help six or more students.

So David and I went along to help.

We met the students. Lovely people.

They have their ideas. They have begun finding statistics etc to back up their ideas.

They write in English (which needs a bit of "polishing").

By the end of our hour and a half, David's student is almost ready to present his speech and my two students had plenty of structure to fit their ideas into.

We will see them again next Sunday.

By the way, the students stayed at the building, moving on to the next “class” ... working on their community project. Another volunteer had arrived by then, ready to continue working with them.

It would be an interesting audit : volunteer hours in Cambodia.

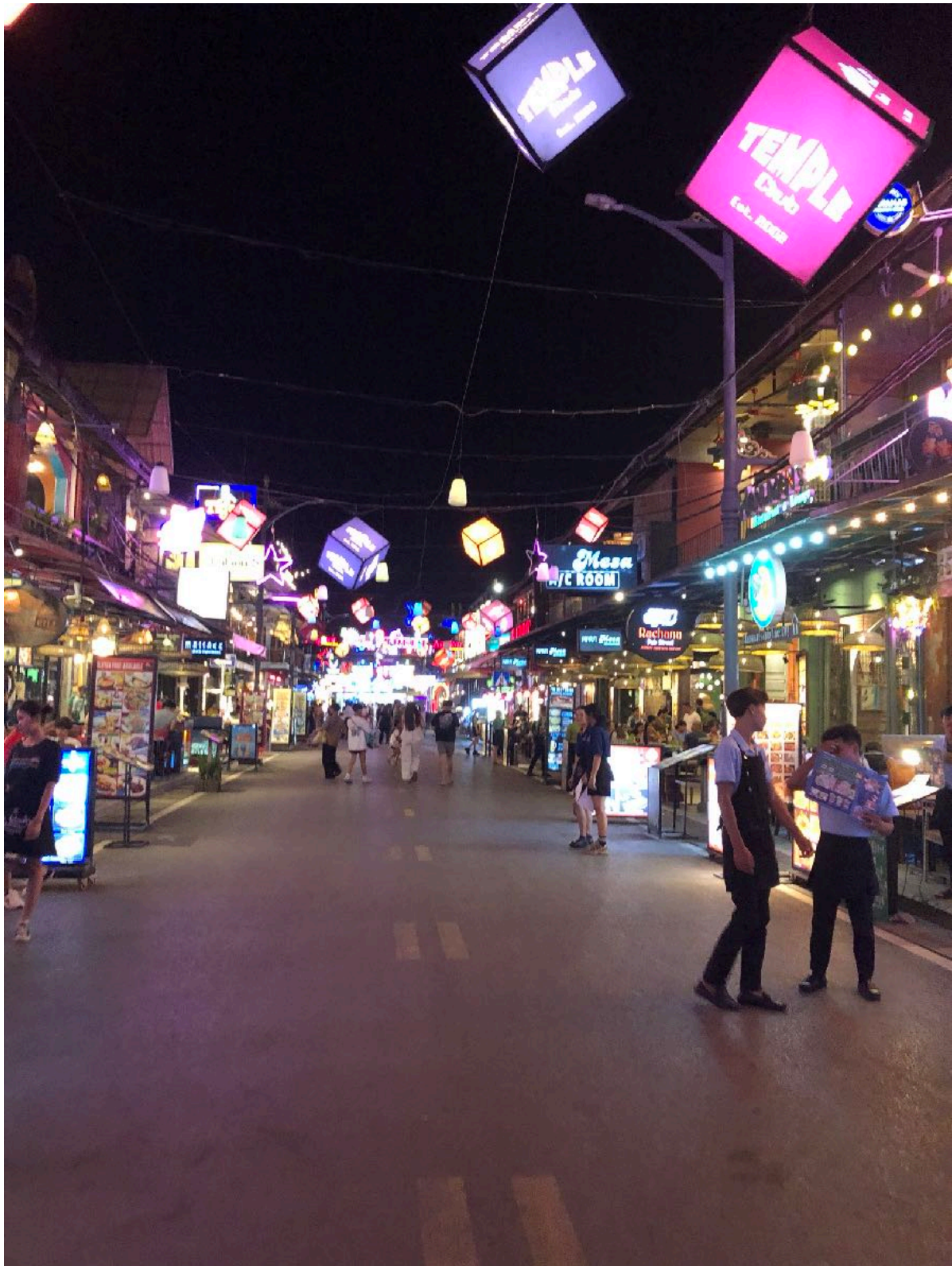
In the evening, we went into town early, in to the Focus Gallery open day. We had previously met the owner / photographer walking on the wall of Angkor Thom. We got chatting. We exchanged “Facebook” addresses and have been friends ever since. We still meet on the wall.

We also met several people we know by sight, either on Facebook or on the streets.

We left early and walked to Pub Street, which was quiet. We had tea at Papier Tigre, The Paper Tiger where we have eaten before. The service is good. The food is good.



The Papier Tigre.



Pub Street.



Further down the River Road, the fountain was on.

Monday 22nd June, 2026.

Wall walk : South Gate to SW Prasat Chrung



Are you tired of seeing dragonflies? We aren't



**Or perfectly round mushrooms, sprinkled with
chocolate powder?**



Do you still like to look across the moat to the rice fields, green in the June sunshine?



Can you still excuse my photography, when trying to move the plants in order to see the insects more easily?



Do you wonder what patterns and colours the butterfly will have when the caterpillar has such contrasting markings?

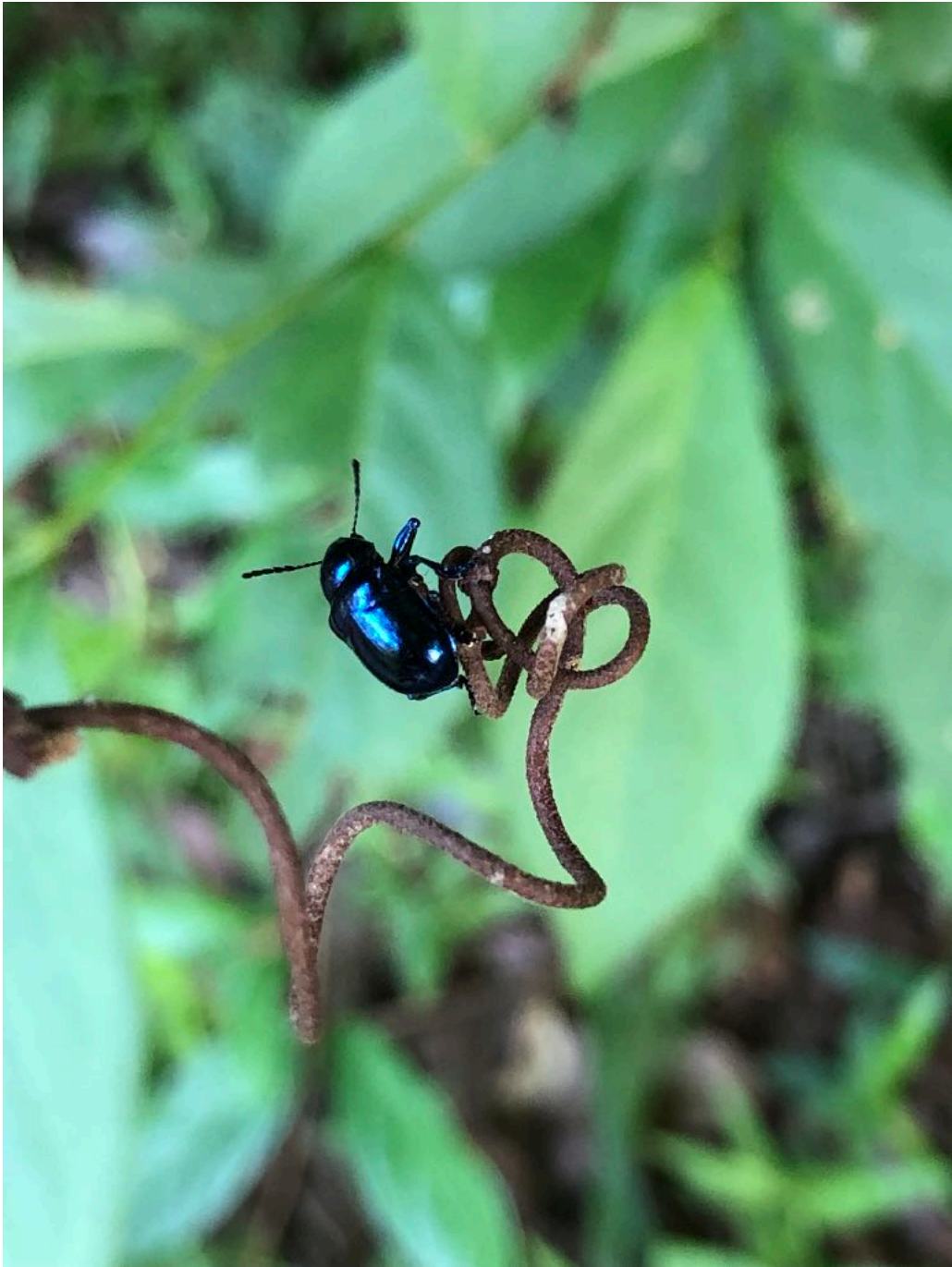
I am not tired of looking at all these things and I will continue to share them with you.

Tuesday 23rd June, 2026.

Wall Walk : South Gate to SE Prasat Chrung



A bee.



A beetle.



Pretty weeds growing close to the edge of the wall.



Prasat Chrung SW in the morning sunshine.

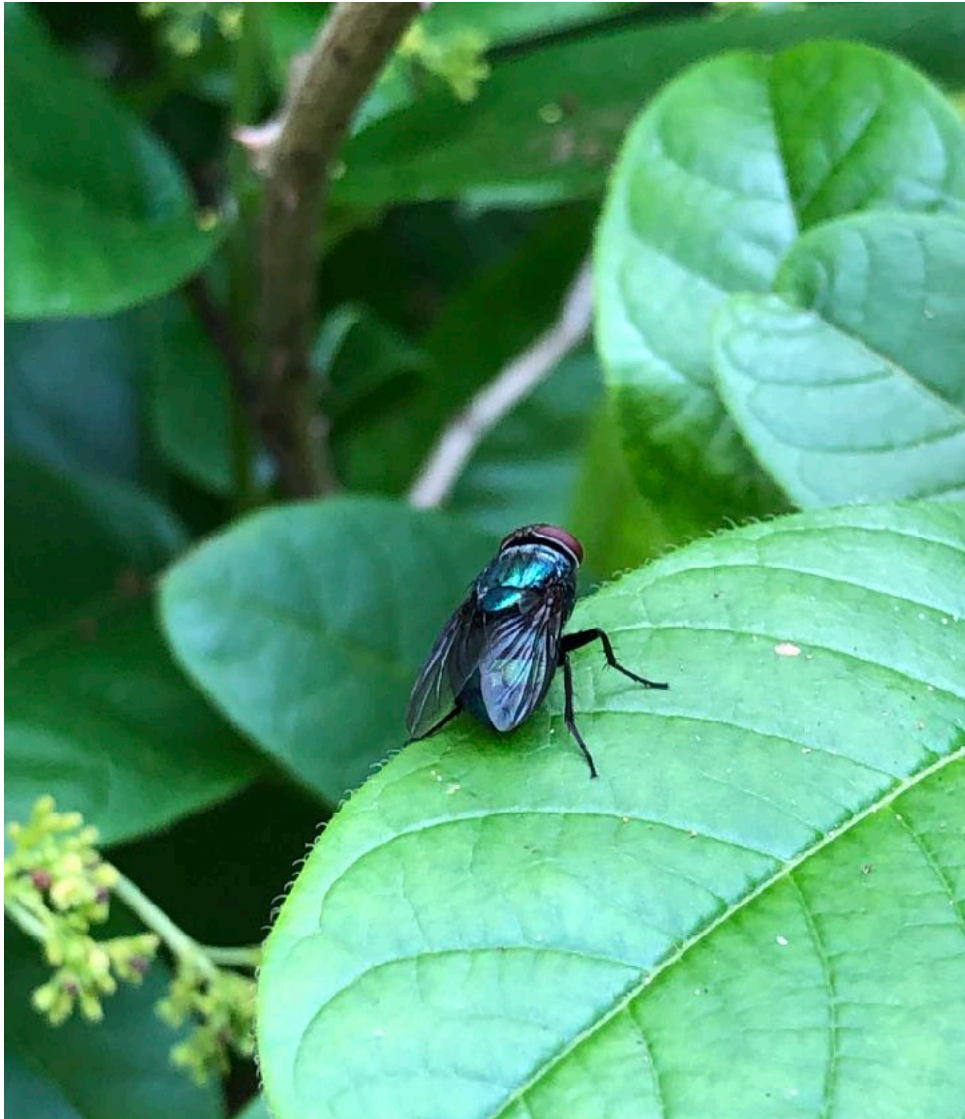
(Prasat means temple and Chrung means corner.)



Beautiful butterfly in the weeds around the temple.



Flower buds.



Blue bottle fly.

They are more interested in the flowers than us.



Daddy Long Legs spider.



They are quite big.



Pale skink.



The iconic causeway onto Angkor Thom through the South Gate.



We park the bike just off the road that runs through the South Gate. There are always monkeys here. I don't trust them (but they haven't threatened us).

Wednesday 24th June, 2026.

Wall Walk : West Gate to NW Prasat Chrung



The West Gate.

The sun is so bright, the shadows are very dark. It is still hot. The rain has not become more regular and the days remain hot and humid.

We find it best to get out early (it was 7:10 am in the morning when this photo was taken).



A different skink.



These butterflies (orange Imperials) have gathered on the new shoots.



This is a (not very good) photo of the spiders that spin their webs close to the ground. Usually, they hide before you get this close.



Prasat Chrung NW.



The mushrooms are growing.



Big tree near the West Gate.



Roadside fruit stall (with a lotus pond in the back ground).

In the evening, after my language class, we walked into town for tea and we met my old language teacher. My conversational Khmer is not good (my reading and writing is better... I hope).