

Part 375 for Cathy's blog

Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th, July, 2026

Monday 13th July, 2026.

Wall walk: West Gate to Prasat Chrung NE

We have had some more rain, so we are interested to see the (small) wildlife that ventures out.



This little snail's shell is an interesting shape.



The plants are thriving.



This is a new leaf, well protected from caterpillars. The colour is striking too.





These bushes have tiny yellow flowers. The flowers are almost over and the tiny fruit, looking a bit like 1cm apples, are just beginning to grow. The butterflies still like the flowers.





Handsome spiders, just waiting.





Berries, formed but not ripe (with ants).



More white toadstools,



Some spiders build webs.



**This flower leans as the different segments develop.
The water causes it to lean more.**



On our way home, we saw this truck.

It did not hold up traffic in Sivutha Boulevard (it was turning here at BBU Road = Build Bright University road).

Not sure what it was going to pump!

Tuesday 14th July, 2026.

Wall walk : Gate of the Dead to SE Chrung



The Gate of the Dead early on a grey morning.



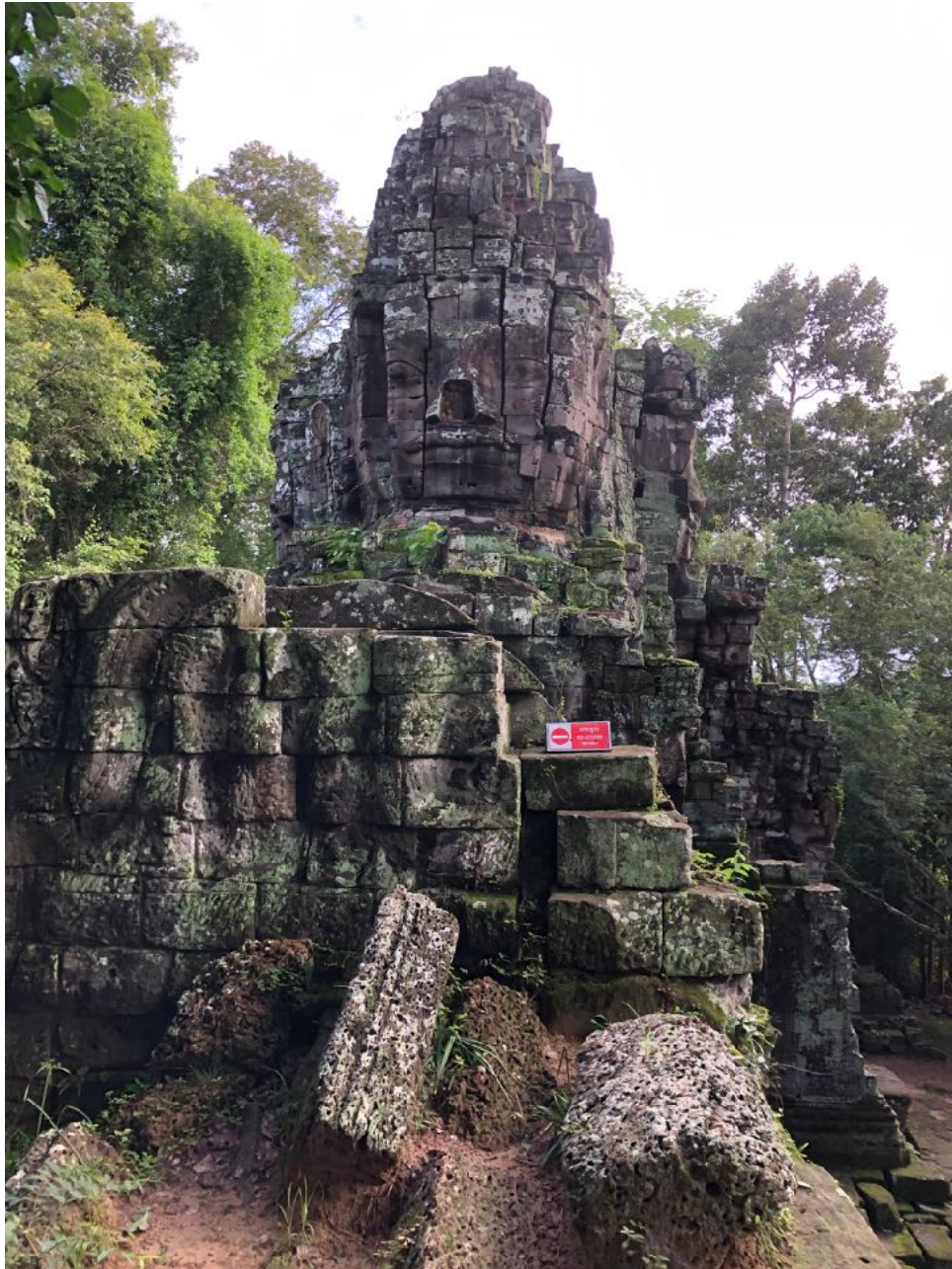
The moss is “greening” up on these three, on carved blocks just inside the Gate of the Dead.

The Gate of the Dead is actually the Ghost Gate (Twear Kmauch). When the armies returned from wars, the soldiers and their King entered the city through the Victory Gate and the bodies of the fallen soldiers came back through the Gate of the Dead.



Inside the Gate of the Dead.

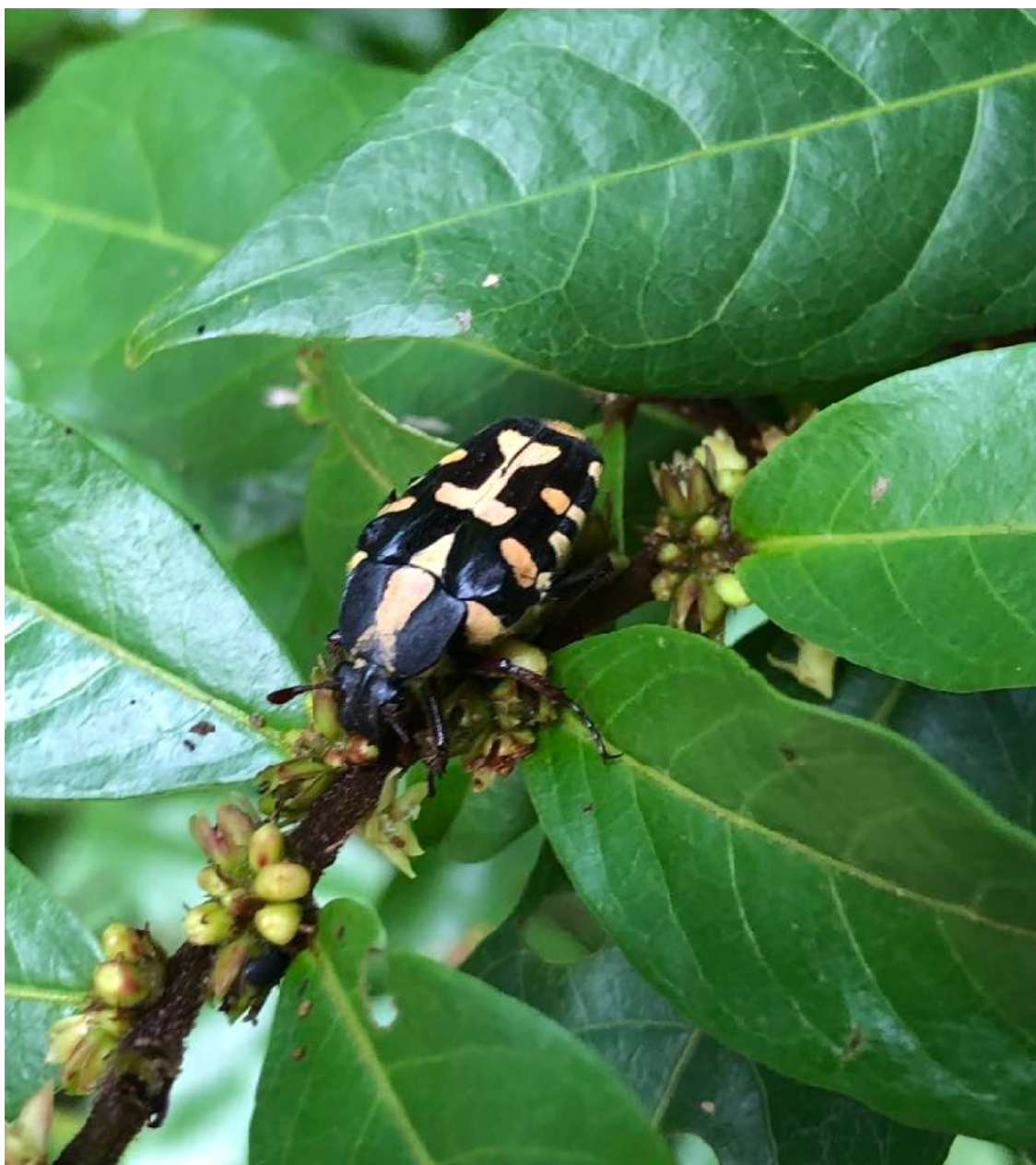




The Gate itself from the top of the wall.



**The sun came out, bright and hot and the insects love it.
Where ever the trees are thinner and the sun light falls
on leaves (and flowers), we can find insects.**



Beetles.



Butterflies.



Damselflies.



Spiders like the sunshine too. This one is small, perhaps 1.5 cm long. He turned to watch me as I got close with the phone camera.



The little yellow flowers have almost finished their season. These thin stemmed flowers are in full bloom now and the butterflies and bees love them.



Swallowtail (I think it has just emerged. Those back wings look like they could stretch out a little more.)



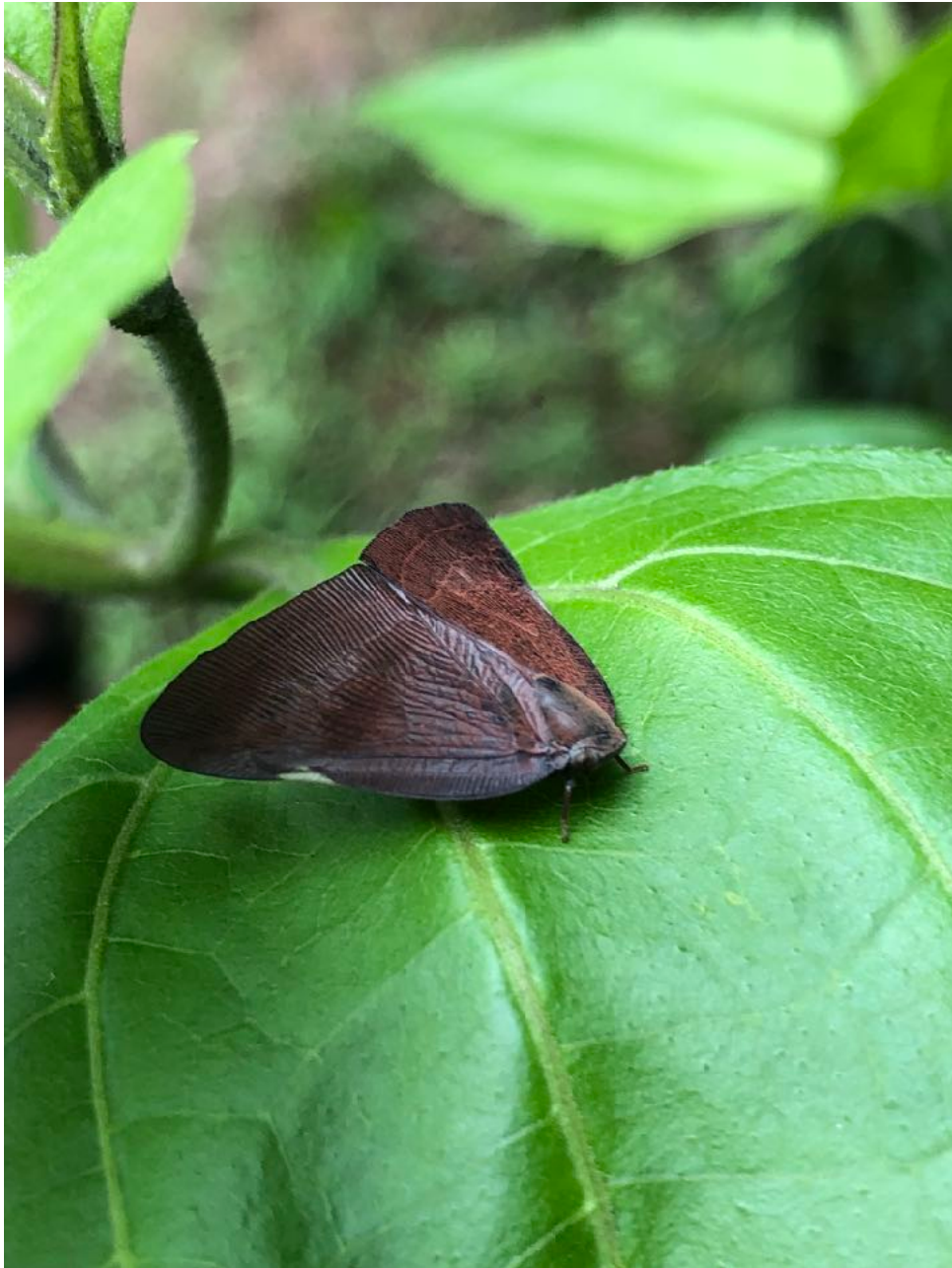
Little toadstools. These are common.



Different flower, pale pink, hard tissue. No butterflies hanging around these. (They are a bit like the “molar” flowers.)



**And our common dragonflies are out and about too.
This one is a bit tattered.**



Shaped like a stealth bomber! Beautiful patterns on the wings.



This moth also has pretty patterns on its wings.



Those of you who know Siem Reap will know this corner (left is Street 2 Thnou Street and to the right is Sivutha Boulevard). They have pulled down the original, big (ugly) electronic advertising screen. They are rebuilding it, taller than ever.

Wednesday 15th July, 2026.

Temple Day : Angkor Wat

A relatively quick walk around Angkor Wat, to the north, today.



Cormorants on a fallen tree in the moat.



Caterpillar in the weeds. Surely a Monarch.



Long, thin spiders.



Weathered carvings (west side).



Displaced naga.



“Tapestry” carving, inside the Western (main) entrance to Angkor Wat.



A “frieze” of dancers and animals.

There is so much to see at Angkor Wat.



**Guests are always welcomed at Angkor Wat... well,
almost all of them.**



Looking back to the West Entrance. It is sad to see it so quiet.

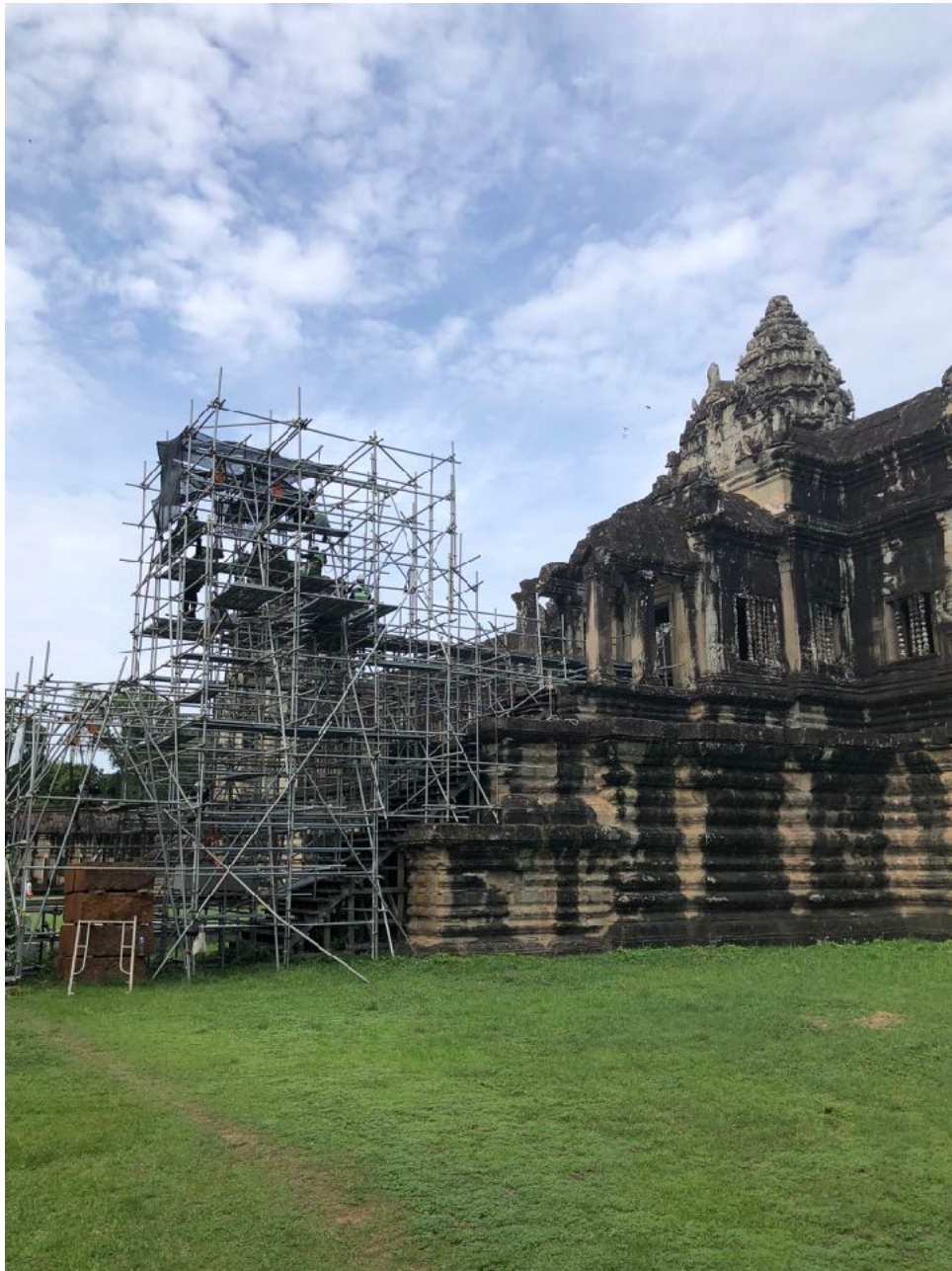


Our purpose today was to be blessed. This monk blesses the tourists. You take off your shoes, kneel down and close your eyes.

He chants and sprinkles water over you.

(You can then put some money on the offering plate. As this money goes to the running of the local pagodas, we were happy to be quite generous.)

Further in from this area and up more steps, you come to the central tower (Mount Meru), which you can climb up to to see wonderful views of the Angkor Wat grounds and surrounding jungle.



**Restoration work on the eastern side of Angkor Wat,
with the central tower behind.**



View back to Angkor Wat, from the east.

Wednesdays are language lesson days and today I cleared up the difference between “see” and “look”... easy enough in English, not so in Khmer, because they have three... “merl”, “kernh” and “merlkernh”... I hope I’ve got it now.