

## Earth Pilgrim walks his talk!

### Leading global ambassador for walking, Satish Kumar, joins two exciting events in the city, inaugurating the launch of the Bristol Walking Festival

Celebrated 'Earth Pilgrim' Satish Kumar, Editor-in-Chief of [Resurgence & Ecologist](#) magazine – renowned for his many pilgrimages for Peace, including a remarkable 8000 mile walk from India to the USA without any money - will be taking part in two eagerly anticipated launch events for the [Bristol Walking Festival](#) today.

This exciting launch day - organised by Bristol City Council together with partners like Travel West, Ramblers and Netwalking South West - precludes the UK's largest urban walking festival, set to run from 1st to 31st May with over 160 scheduled walks.

This afternoon, Satish will be taking part in a innovative community Compass Walk into Bristol in celebration of this walkable city during its year as Green Capital of Europe. The new Compass Walk invites people citywide to join in a choice of four walks in easy stages from the outskirts of the city into the centre of Bristol, of which Satish will lead a walk leaving from the Southville Centre at 4.30pm.

"Bristol being the green capital of Europe, there is no greener way of keeping your body and mind healthy and fit than walking," says Satish Kumar. "Walking needs no technology, no use of any natural resources. Walking is the best source of conservation. All amenities in cities should be within walking distance and we should learn to walk, to shop, to go to the library and go to see our doctor by walking. By walking we can minimise the use of fossil fuel and reduce the risk of climate change. Long live the legs!"

A former Jain monk and spirited environmental activist, Satish Kumar has been editor of Resurgence magazine (now called [Resurgence & Ecologist](#)) since 1973; hailed by the Guardian newspaper as "the spiritual and artistic flagship of the green movement", the magazine is a fantastic source of inspiration for living more sustainably during Bristol's Green Capital year. Satish is the guiding force behind numerous internationally-renowned ecological ventures including Schumacher College in Devon. Now almost 80, he attributes his phenomenal, enduring fitness and joie de vivre to walking - his colourful life has taken him on some remarkable pilgrimages, starting with the epic 8-000 mile Peace walk from India to the USA in his early 20s.

Dreamt up by Netwalking South West, The Compass Walk routes have been mapped by Stuart Riddle of the Ramblers and his volunteers, assigning numerous venues as staging posts along the way. The walk's series of stages from four different directions have been arranged to travel in an X formation. Details of the different routes and timings can be viewed on the [Netwalking South West website](#). On arrival in the city centre at 3.15pm, walkers will gather for a photograph on Cascade Steps by Watershed with the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Alastair Watson.

“We are appealing to all keen Bristol walkers and ramblers to come and take part in this exciting community initiative,” says Rosalind Turner of Netwalking South West.

“The Compass Walk will treat walkers to some of the best walking Bristol has to offer,” says a spokesperson for the Bristol Walking Festival, “taking in short and long, accessible and adventurous, green and urban, Nordic walking and buggy-friendly walks, there’s something for everyone! Come and be part of this unique Bristol-wide celebration to launch this year’s Bristol Walking Festival.”

The day will culminate with a special evening event at MShed featuring a screening, by kind permission of BBC Worldwide, of the celebrated Natural World documentary *Earth Pilgrim* featuring Satish Kumar as presenter. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with Satish hosted by Rosalind Turner of Netwalking South West, herself a passionate walker.

**For more details about the Compass Walk visit the [Netwalking South West website](#)**