



Phoebe Taplin:

Phoebe Taplin, is a freelance journalist and author. She has written four walking guides to Moscow, two guides to the Harcamlow Way (through Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire), and a little book about Henley-on-Thames. She is a regular contributor to various travel magazines including *Country Walking* and has forthcoming books of film-related walks in Oxford and Scotland. Her latest project involves researching car-free travel guides across the UK for a new website, Good Journey <https://www.goodjourney.org.uk/>.

At the time of the interview Phoebe had recently returned from Moscow, where she and her husband had lived for the past 4 years. In her effort to discover the city, she formed a walking group and researched where to walk in Moscow. Many of these walks were published in the Moscow News, a local paper, and Phoebe was selecting 48 of these to be published in guidebook form. The interview was recorded on a walk around residential streets in Bishop's Stortford, a marked contrast from many of the walks in Moscow.

Notes from the podcast interview by Andrew Stuck: Recorded in May 2011 and published in May 2012 on <http://talkingwalking.net>

The interview opens with Phoebe explaining how she began to discover Moscow on foot, and how her walks became a regular feature in the English language Moscow News newspaper, which was shut down in 2014. It was funded by the Russian State news Agency "Ria Novosti", replaced internationally by Rossiya Segodnya. Moscow's media landscape has since become more restricted.

Her books of Moscow Walks, published in English and Russian, are set out by month, providing a choice of routes pertinent to each season, and fall into four main types: City tours, walks in parks in and around the city, walks in the towns and villages surrounding Moscow, and thematic walks, celebrating seasonal highlights. Order these, and her more recent books, here: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/s?encoding=UTF8&search-alias=books-uk&field-author=Phoebe%20Taplin>

Dacha villages are summer retreats: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dacha>

"Podmoskovi" = area around Moscow

Bitsa Park has the unpleasant reputation of being associated with the Chessboard killer. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bitsa_Park

In the interview, Phoebe was asked two routes that she would recommend – quite a challenge for someone who has researched several hundred!

Phoebe's recommended routes were:

In Berlin – a walk beside the River Havel to Peacock Island: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfaueninsel>

In Moscow – walks in either of two parks: Kolomenskoye Park <http://phoebetaplin.com/walks/408?rq=kolomenskoye>

Or VDNKh, home to the All-Russian Exhibition <http://phoebetaplin.com/walks/135?rq=VDNKH>

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What has Phoebe done since our interview

"2011 onwards: I have a walking group, composed of random friends and contacts, and I lead walks most weeks all over the South East and beyond... We've walked the Capital Ring, London Loop, Thames path, Herts Way, Essex Way, Icknield Way and many others... Last year we also explored (among other things) 'Global London', following on from several years of 'Russian London'...



2011-2012 - Wrote four seasonal walking guides to Moscow; 11,000 copies of each one were published! The *Summer* guide has now sold out and *Autumn* is almost gone; Spring and Winter still available (for now) on Amazon <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Moscow-Walks-Winter-Phoebe-Taplin/dp/5905600023>. Since we talked, the international arm of the old state news agency Ria Novosti, which published my books, has been closed down by the Russian Government and the *Moscow News* is long gone too. I think they were both a bit too independent for the increasingly authoritarian regime there.

2013 - Wrote a little book about *Henley-on-Thames* for Pitkin Press and the Rowing Museum https://www.amazon.co.uk/Henley-Thames-Pitkin/dp/1841654299/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8

Since the interview, I have explored the area I now live in very thoroughly and been involved in the local Footpath association...

2014-2015 – Wrote two walking guides to the lovely *Harcamlow Way* (a long distance route through Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire), also available on amazon. https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=harcamlow+way

Regular contributions to various travel magazines including *Country Walking*, covering East of England and beyond.

2018 – two forthcoming books of film-related walks upcoming with Pitkin Press. One of these is a *Film Lovers Guide to Oxford*, including walks along the Thames Path and beyond. The other is a guide to locations for the TV series *Outlander* (!) around Glasgow and Edinburgh.

My other latest project involves researching car-free travel guides across the UK for a new website, Good Journey, which promotes and celebrates getting about on trains, buses, on foot and by bike, <https://www.goodjourney.org.uk/>."

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