**Resources**

Lecture: Newgate: London’s Prototype of Hell (Stephen Halliday): <http://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/newgate-londons-prototype-of-hell>

Carolyne Larrington, *The Land of the Green Man*: *A Journey through the Supernatural Landscapes of the British Isles*, I.B Tauris & Co, 2015

Jennifer Westwood and Jacqueline Simpson, *The Lore of the Land: A Guide to England's Legends, from Spring-heeled Jack to the Witches of Warboys*, Penguin, 2005

Jennifer Westwood and Sophia Kingshill, *The Lore of Scotland: A Guide to Scottish Legends*

The black dog of Newgate - Robert Greene (1588-1592) - University of Oxford Text archive

[www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk](http://www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk)

[www.sluaghsidhe.com](http://www.sluaghsidhe.com)

**Inspirations & Approaches**

The baying of hounds, blacker than night, on the desolate wilds of Dartmoor; the stag-horned hunter who serves as an omen of national tragedy; suffering in the notorious Newgate prison manifested in the form of a giant black dog...well, these are potent images, certainly. No storyteller could resist.

Moreover, it was the sheer prevalence of dog lore across Britain, whether England’s black variation or the green fairy hound of Gaelic countries, that made an episode on the topic a no-brainer. Part of my goal, of course, is to tell the stories that seem to be either particularly prevalent or particularly interesting - and the phantom dogs of the British Isles certainly fits both descriptors/

In terms of my own creative interpretations, the detail concerning the maiden’s cries being heard in the canine howls (in the Wisht Hound story) is my own narrative invention.

The Cu Sith story combined both the Piper’s story along with a common folkloric trend concerning human women being abducted by the Cu Sith. In traditional folklore, these are separate tales. In the ‘Lore of Scotland,’ there is also mention of a very fascinating ‘and fanciful’ notion: that the bagpipes have a language. According to W.L Manson (1901), this idea ‘runs’ through ‘the great bulk of what has been written’ about the bagpipes. I decided to add this detail to the King of the Pipers and the Cave of Gold story because the bagpipe language is a vivid and interesting idea that, very likely, was a part of original listeners’ knowledge base. Including the theme of the bagpipes’ language was then just another way of bringing the story alive to modern listeners.

I also took creative liberties in representing the Sluagh Sidhe’s once-a-year decimation of the surrounding land and villages as an expression of their conquered rage - as the fey folk are the descendents of the conquered Tuatha De Danann and humans are the descendents of the conquering Milesians. Again, this might be/might have been a part of the knowledge base of the Irish listeners of the tale. If so, including this detail in my attempt to flesh out the narrative frame of the original was a part of my overall goal to bring the story to life for people who do not have this cultural context.

**Further Reading & Viewing**

Books & Short Stories

Mark Norman, *Black Dog Folklore*, <http://www.troybooks.co.uk/black-dog-folklore.html> - Compilation of gathered lore.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* - serial fiction from the famous 19th century author, featuring the famous Sherlock Holmes and the eerie location of Dartmoor.

Neil Gaiman, *Black Dog* - In this story, the main character from Gaiman's [*American Gods*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Gods) is visiting a small English village when one of the residents becomes menaced by [Black Shuck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Shuck). This story deals heavily with the concept of black dogs as bad omens and hellhounds.

Ian McEwan, *Black Dogs* - a character encounters two black dogs that she believes to be evil incarnate.

Simon Burchell’s, *Black Dogs in Latin America*  - http://www.hoap.co.uk/pbdla.pdf

Alan Moore, *Voice of the Fire* - The story follows the lives of twelve people who lived in the same area of England over a period of 6000 years, and how their lives link to one another’s. Many characters encounter black dogs.

Russell Hoban, *Riddley Walker* - set about two thousand years after a [nuclear war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_warfare) has devastated world civilizations. The main action of the story begins when the young narrator, Riddley, stumbles upon efforts to recreate a weapon of the ancient world. There is a sacrifice of a dog at the beginning and a folktale called ‘Why the dog won’t shut its eyes.’ Death dogs are important in the "Eusa" story that guides Riddley's quest, as is a companion black dog later in the quest.

Websites

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_dog_ghosts_in_popular_culture>

<http://www.mysteriousbritain.co.uk/folklore/phantom-black-dogs.html>

**Note**: The wikipedia link has a wealth of information on more creative/fictional representations of the black dog in popular culture. *The Land of the Green Man* (see resources section) also has an interesting section on how the dog has features in popular culture.