**No One is Listening( a ghost story)**

**Episode One . Judge John Popham.**

Vic Llewellyn and Emma Williams explore ghosts, memory loss, and fear in their podcast. They discuss a book called "Haunted Britain" by Anthony Hippisley Cox, which includes routes to ghost sites. They visit Wellington Monument and Popham's Pool, believed to be the entrance to hell, where Sir John Popham's ghost is said to walk annually. Vic calculates that Popham's ghost would take 60 years to reach Wellington Church. Emma and Vic debate the existence of ghosts, with Vic skeptical but acknowledging people's experiences. They plan to revisit on New Year's Eve to see if they can encounter Popham's ghost.

**Vic Llewellyn** 0:00

No one is listening. A podcast that explores ghosts, memory loss and feeling the fear.

Emma Williams 0:07

Let's go. Let's go. Vic,

**Vic Llewellyn** 0:09

yeah, I don't know where we're going here, but I'm sure the sat nav will pick up.

Emma Williams 0:15

Did you put the car park in? Wellington monument CarPark?

Vic Llewellyn 0:19

Wellington monument, yeah, it's just there's No signal.

Vic Llewellyn 0:21

Hello, Emma,

Emma Williams 0:23

Hello. Vic,

Vic Llewellyn 0:25

Well, look, you've caught me looking at my book.

Emma Williams 0:31

Caught you. I asked you,

Vic Llewellyn 0:33

you've come into the room and you've caught me.

Emma Williams 0:36

No, I haven't. That's a fictional account. This is a this is just practically talking about what we're doing.

Speaker 1 0:41

So this is a very interesting book,. Because I've had this book since I was 13, and it's called haunted Britain, and it's by a man called Anthony D Hippisley Cox. Anthony D Hippisley Cox, that's his name, and he wrote this guidebook to ghosts sites and strange locations through the UK. And it's, , it's consisting of routes you can take to visit these sites. And we're going to visit one of these sites today. We were particularly interested in Judge John Popham, not allowed to say Popham.

Emma Williams 1:29

you can, you can. It's clicking that makes the sound waves go too high.

Emma Williams 1:34

I think Popham is okay, but don't shout. Popham!

Vic Llewellyn 1:42

Only if I'm really scared. Okay, so we've got the mark. Yeah. So, John Popham,

Emma Williams 1:48

did you ever see any? Did you ever visit any of the other ones?

Vic Llewellyn 1:51

No,

Emma Williams 1:51

okay, , so when you know as a child, no, so you just read it and imagine going to the places,?

Vic Llewellyn 1:57

yeah,

Emma Williams 1:58

 right, okay, but you haven't, you haven't been, to any of them.

Vic Llewellyn 2:02

 Well, last year on my birthday, I went to a sacred well, which is very close to here, but I can't remember what that's called. I'd have to have a look.

Emma Williams 2:11

But this time, we're going to try and find, go and investigate John the ghost of John Popham,

Vic Llewellyn 2:17

the ghost. Yeah. Well, we won't see the ghost, will

Emma Williams 2:19

we? I would say no,

Vic Llewellyn 2:21

 because he only walks on New Year's Eve,

Emma Williams 2:23

right? Okay,

Vic Llewellyn 2:24

This is the 18th of May.

Emma Williams 2:26

Okay, is it worth reading the in the book?

Vic Llewellyn 2:29

well, we got it marked.

Emma Williams 2:30

 yeah, we have because I'm super-efficient.

Emma Williams 2:38

Okay, yeah, good.

Emma Williams 2:46 Got there, right, right. Wellington monument. Here we are, Wellington monument, which is a long way away, according to that journey,

Vic Llewellyn 2:59

yeah, long like almost in another country, but how

Emma Williams 3:03

actually, far it is,

Emma Williams 3:04

right? Okay, yeah, shall we get out and go and have a look at Wellington monument? Yeah, we have to walk past it, don't we? To find a path and then pass down to Hell's mouth,

Emma Williams 3:14

Hell's Gate, Hell's whatever it is, Hell's pond.

Emma Williams 3:18

Yeah, it's not, I reckon it's already a bit jinxed this trip, don't you? It's after us, right? What was the three legged dog and everything? Okay, here we go

Vic Llewellyn 3:30

in the book written by Anthony hipsley Cox, we walk and we go to a it starts at Park farm, which is near the Wellington monument in Somerset. And we're not going to start our walk there. We're going to actually start at the Wellington monument, and we will walk to park farm. And that park farm, just behind it is a pool, a pond, which, as well, it says once thought to have been the entrance

Emma Williams 4:00

to hell. What do you think?

Vic Llewellyn 4:03

Well, to all intents and purposes, we're

Vic Llewellyn 4:05

standing at the gates of hell. One of them, I don't think it's funny.

Emma Williams

 sorry, sorry. And it looks quite brackish. It's a big pond. It's quite big, but it is a gate. It's a big pond. It's got, like,

Emma Williams 4:22

a little central bit, is that, like

Emma Williams 4:24

a little bit of rockery in the middle. It's quite overgrown, and there's loads of insects on it. It's very nice. It's definitely a big, big pond. Yeah, you don't want to fall in there. Fall in there. This is definitely it. But yeah, so we found this could be Popham’s pool. This is definitely Popham’s pool. This is a gateway to hell. It's quite dark, isn't it? Yeah. I mean, it really is dark. It's not like clear blue or anything you don't want to go in it. No. So

Vic Llewellyn 4:54

at one time in history, there were people who thought, but that pond was the entrance to hell, and it was. Here that Sir John Popham ghost was allowed to make his way to the family vaults in Wellington church, but only by one cock stride a year. That's not very far. I was looking at a chicken yesterday, right? And I think they walk about six inches of stride, okay, Max. All right, okay, so he's only allowed. So he's making his way from this pond in park farm to these monuments in Wellington, St John the Baptist Church. Yeah. Anyway, he died in 1607, so we're talking a long time ago, yeah, and his ghost would have still had a long way to go. But according to legend, things are even worse. Apparently, the ghost reached a farm where the haunting caused such a disturbance that the farmer got a white witch to send Popham back to the pit. His ghost then had to start his journey all over again.

Vic Llewellyn 6:01

So I'm just starting my walk, the walk of Sir John Popham. I'm starting at the gate to hell, which he crawled out of. I can see it in front of me. Looks quite nice. It's quite muddy, it's lot of flies. I suppose the gates to hell would be quite innocuous, because he wouldn't want to advertise it, because of lots of reasons. You get a lot of weird tourists.

Vic Llewellyn 6:29

People might try to go in there. You know,

Vic Llewellyn 6:31

there's a duck. Watch out, duck. Satan's gonna get you. Oh, he's disappeared. It's gone down.

Emma Williams 6:38

So how about the pop of mooring?

Emma Williams 6:42

Listen, was made by Cornelius and William cure, and they did the tomb of Mary, Queen of Scots, which is sort of interesting, because he was the judge at that trial. Yeah, it's big.

Emma Williams 7:01

It's very, very, very big,

Vic Llewellyn 7:06

okay, well, just found this copse of woods. So in the legend, John Popham gets fed up of walking to his monument in Wellington, and he he hides out in some woods and haunts a forest of trees, and they're oak trees, and here they are, and I think these look pretty old, and they're all in little copse by a little stream. And I think this would have been a cool place for any ghost to hang out.

Emma Williams 7:34

So I'm back outside. I had to leave the church because my beetroot kimchi was spilling out in my bag, causing a blood red stain.

Emma Williams 7:47

I mean, what can you say?

Emma Williams 7:49

Don't buy kimchi before you go and visit a tomb.

Vic Llewellyn 7:52

I'm underneath the motorway on the path that John Popham took on the way to his grave in Wellington. I kind of worked out that well, I looked online at Cox crow foot span is six inches because that's how you would if you're making a ladder to for them to go up into their roost, you'd make six inch gaps on the ladder. So that's how I know that one. So I've worked out that if he can go six inches every New Year's Eve, it would take him about 30 years to go a mile, and I reckon it's about two miles to Wellington, so it'd take him 60 years. Anyway, it's quite a long time, but not a long time compared to eternity.

Emma Williams 8:37

Vic has just arrived, having walked from the gates of hell to here, and we'll have a little chat about how it was on a beautiful May Day. Oh, Vic haunted England, that book. Why did you like it so much?

Vic Llewellyn 9:03

I think it was intriguing because it was all about places

Vic Llewellyn 9:09

that were very definite,

Vic Llewellyn 9:12

and the supernatural sometimes doesn't seem very definite. And I think also it was because they were places I couldn't get to because I was only 13, couldn't drive, and my mum and dad wouldn't take me to them. I'd feel silly asking. And I thought it was quite a kind of romantic thing to do, to go round in your funny little car, because I guess he had a funny little car the guy, and go and see all these places,

Emma Williams 9:40

right? You know, do you think he went to see them all? He didn't just like list them. It's really hard

Vic Llewellyn 9:46

to know. I I believe that he did right? Because some of them are so perfunctory, yeah, that he probably just drove past 30 miles an hour. I didn't bother getting out. But, yeah, some people around here say, you. Is a is a phase that he

Emma Williams 10:01

uses quite a lot, right? Okay,

Vic Llewellyn 10:03

which is what I'm intrigued by. I'm intrigued by meeting the people around here and going, what do you people around here say about this pond, for example? You say, Yeah,

Vic Llewellyn 10:14

anything about it? Okay, I'm interested in that.

Emma Williams 10:18

So I got another question, right? So you're making show, which is a, you know, it's a ghost stories. It's called, no one's listening a ghost story. Yeah. Question, do you believe in ghosts?

Emma Williams 10:29

No, okay,

Vic Llewellyn 10:32

no, I don't. So why are

Emma Williams 10:35

you making a show about ghosts? If you don't believe in them?

Vic Llewellyn 10:38

Because ghosts is a, is a kind of human idea, like,

Vic Llewellyn 10:43

it's like,

Vic Llewellyn 10:45

I don't know, it's like belief, or it's like UFOs, or it's like goblins or

Emma Williams 10:52

but are you saying you don't believe in those because you are quite into

Vic Llewellyn 10:56

the need. There's a need. Human

Vic Llewellyn 10:57

beings need to kind of have a belief in something that's not, not them, right? Other, okay, the other thing,

Emma Williams 11:09

but you like a hope really, okay?

Vic Llewellyn 11:12

It's like a kind of to do with hope. People hope there's UFOs, yeah? People hope there's ghosts, yeah, because it means we're gonna get saved by aliens or killed? Yeah, either way, those people would be happy. Yeah. And ghosts is like, the means there's a life after death, right? Although that's not a very nice one, is

Emma Williams 11:32

it? He didn't, he didn't. Yeah. I mean, it's different, isn't it? Because there are different types of ghosts, aren't they? So they, mean, I read this great thing today. It said, like, ghosts are a reflection of ourselves, in a way, maybe what you're saying is they're a reflection of what we hope for. Like, there's something else, there's something it's not just this world. There's another world. Or

Vic Llewellyn 11:53

yeah, that's all very well, me

Vic Llewellyn 11:56

saying that. But people see ghosts. They do. They don't ask to see the ghosts. They're not looking to see. No, no, they do see. They experience something,

Emma Williams 12:05

but I suppose you're saying that they don't, they're not real. What they see, they're

Vic Llewellyn 12:08

they're real, but it's hallucinatory in nature. Okay? I think cool.

Emma Williams 12:17

Do you think um,

Vic Llewellyn 12:19

because otherwise it's so mundane what ghosts do? Yeah,

Emma Williams 12:25

what do you think? No, they sort

Vic Llewellyn 12:26

of rattle pots

Emma Williams 12:29

and scratch. They scratch on things, and they scratch under beds.

Vic Llewellyn 12:32

Just say something, write something down, or something I don't you know, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Emma Williams 12:42

What we should do is one New Year's Eve, we should do this walk, shouldn't we, and then we'll see if we see him,

Vic Llewellyn 12:49

yeah, yeah, but it just not definite. It doesn't say what time of day on you No, that's true, you know, of course, because otherwise people would stand there and they go, oh no. I

Emma Williams 12:59

don't know if they would. I think

Emma Williams 13:02

you're quite an exception.

Emma Williams 13:05

Stay in that hat and then go on music. Okay, good.

Vic Llewellyn 13:22

Episode one: no one is listening has been brought to you by Emma Williams and Vic Llewellyn with music by Sam Halmarack. This project has been supported by the Arts Council England and 10 Radio.