

## A silly start: This week in Doubtful News for January 7, 2014

Written by Sharon Hill  
Tuesday, 07 January 2014 09:00

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Off to a rollicking start for 2014. Here is a rundown of the strange stories that the media fed to us for this past week courtesy of Doubtful News.

What's one of the first stories from New Years Eve? [A ghost along the Thames](#) . It's unimpressive.

Also unimpressive but really laughable, as usual, are the ["top psychic" predictions for 2014](#) . Have a look and a chuckle.

Right before New Year's Eve, we posted a story about a [UFO group in Sweden expecting an increase in calls regarding lights in the sky](#) that were actually Chinese Lanterns - floating luminaries.

The day after the New Year, the California media (who obviously don't keep up with Doubtful News, haha), went [overboard for UFO stories of what were OBVIOUSLY Chinese Lanterns](#) across Sacramento. They appeared to do ZERO checking on the story.

The week between December 24 and January 1 is typically a silly one for news. We had a few...

[Did Kim Jong-Un feed his uncle to the dogs?](#) No, probably not, but the media thought this was a great story to pass along anyway.

A [crop circle in California might be the real deal](#) , say investigators. Talk about credulous!

The guy who claimed to have a real Bigfoot in a freezer in 2008 now is [trying to pull the same stunt again](#) . Only the local news station seems to be giving him the time of day.

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And then there is the [magnetic man vying for attention again](#) . (He's just rather sticky.)

Big and controversial news this week of a debate: [Ken Ham of the Creation Museum vs Bill Nye the Science Guy](#) . Not everyone is thrilled about it since it has the potential to raise money for Ham's struggling Bible show.

[A new "River Jordan" has sprung up in Nigeria](#) . Leo Igwe who posts here on the Swift Blog, calls for government action because of the serious potential for illness and disease.

Animal Planet had a successful 2013 by becoming less factual and more fictional. [They brag about that here](#)

Talk about a sore loser! [A woman running for City Counsel claims her opponent hexed her](#) . With art.

The Catholic Church is embracing the rise in requests for exorcisms by [training more exorcists](#) . Who trains the trainers, I wonder?

You may have seen the many scare stories about Fukushima radiation. An expert [debunks the claim that a starfish disease is related to radiation poisoning](#)

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Finally, [our year end wrap up of the BEST stories is available](#) Check out the editors' picks and the Readers' Choices. [&nbsp;](#)

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Happy 2014 and stay skeptical --there's a lot of nonsense out there.

Sharon Hill runs Doubtful News, a unique feed of news stories about the paranormal, pseudoscience, the weird and the unexplained with questioning commentary.