



Flights of fantasy . . . the Aetherius Society keeps an eye on unidentified flying objects

Get a sniff of this in the name of the Stinking Rose

Peter Spencer keeps some very strange company in the farther-flung outposts of oddity

ARE YOU obsessed with the lifestyle of the garden gnome? Gnomes Anonymous might have helped but they've gone ex-directory.

Do you want to dig a well? The British Society of Dowers suss out your spring with the wave of a twig. Are you worried about the survival of the lop pig? For you there is The Lop Pig Society, protectors of this floppy-eared porker.

But all these things are only the tip of the magic mountain.

If you're interested in anything remotely oddball there is almost certainly a society here in Britain to cater for your interest.

Hygiene conscious? Try the Disinfected Mail Study Circle. For herb and garlic fanciers, there is the society of The Lovers of the Stinking Rose. Seekers of ghosts, UFO's and magic are well catered for.

There are witches and warlocks practising good (white) and bad (black) magic. With help you can practise a little harmless sorcery and maybe

get a hard-boiled egg out of a silk hanky. (Harmful sorcery is strictly to be avoided.)

Some magic and occult societies aren't very approachable. The International Order of Kabbalists said they had "had enough of press perversion" and hung up.

The Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP) are the friendly UK ghostbusters. They won't hang up on serious callers. If objects are throwing themselves around or chilling screams are coming from no-

where, call them. Scarey sounds, ghoulies and ghosties, long legged beasties and rains of frogs are their bread and butter.

The Aetherius Society is a completely different bucket of pan-galactic gargle blasters. It has been campaigning for 30 years to prove that for centuries, friendly hyper-intelligent galactic megabeings have been visiting Earth for a quick chin-wag with selected natives.

The Aetherius Society UFO Hotline had 500 calls last year. Some are spoofs of the "Is my

frisbee a UFO?" variety, others are more credible as several callers report the same one.

Last April two policemen reported seeing a bright light in the sky for five minutes and then shot off at great speed. While the light was there their radio and car went kaput. They ascertained that there were no ordinary flying objects in the vicinity.

The Society regarded this as a "great sighting with good verification". However the most important work it conducts is not its alien acceptance campaign but Operation Prayer Power. Using the "science" of Radionics, it has been storing up subtle energies in a crystalline battery which is being saved for moments of world crisis.

Perhaps Operation PP really works, after all we haven't been invaded by evil aliens or gobbled up by a black hole...yet.

● For further information send an sae to: ASSAP, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DX. Aetherius Society, 757 Fulham Road, London SW6 5UU. UFO Hotline: 01 731 1094