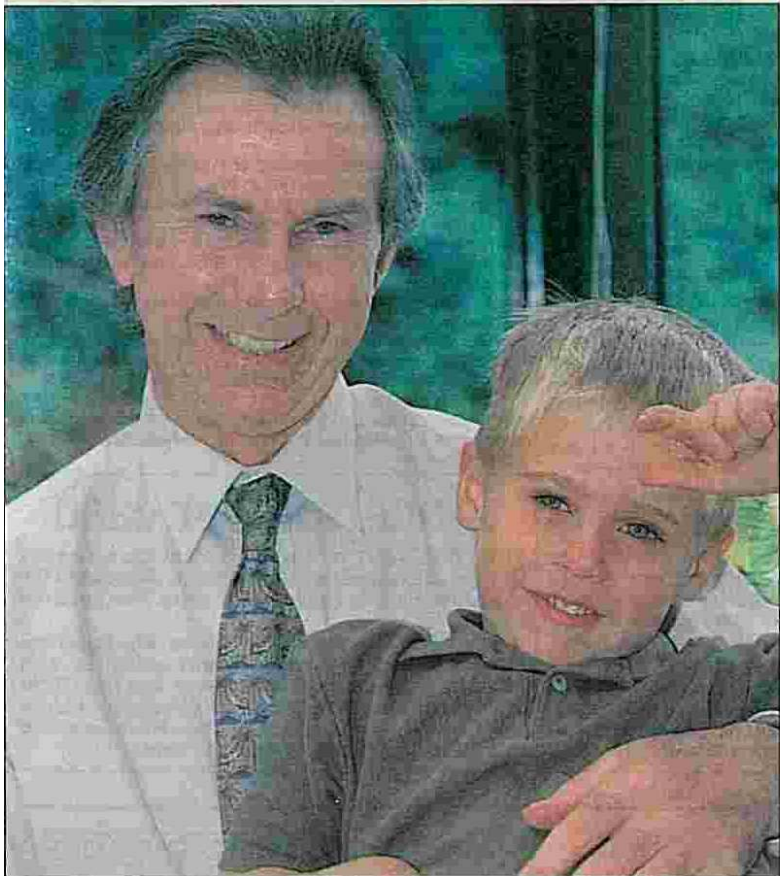


TONBRIDGE MAN'S SPIRITUAL SUCCESS COULD LEAD HIM TO QUIT JOB

# Miracle man in demand

By Emma Shankland



JUST four months after he helped a pensioner walk again, the demand for the healing hands of a Tonbridge man could lead him to ditch his career and concentrate on his spiritual gifts.

Douglas Ballard, who lives in Weald View Road, has also been praised for his work with a four-year-old autistic boy and restoring a stroke and heart attack victim to health.

Having discovered the "gift" more than five years ago, Mr Ballard's patients, who pay a voluntary donation for his time, live as far away as America and Portugal and benefit from his skills.

### Sick

Demands are now so high he is considering leaving his interior design business to concentrate on the sick and needy.

Cecilia Grainger, 60, of Silverhurst Drive, told the Tonbridge Courier: "Although he had helped my rheumatoid arthritis in the past, I only realised the extent of his gift when I broke my Achilles tendon.

"I was told that I might never be able to walk properly without a stick but because of Douglas I have never needed it. Even my surgeon commented on my recovery.

"I was sceptical when I heard about spiritual healing but I was in pain and decided to give it a go. It was worth it as the treatment gives me endless energy—but I have no idea how he does it."

Stephanie Jeffery, 42, of Quarry Hill Road, whose son Jonathan, four, suffers with autism, said: "Combined with other treatments Jonathan has come a long way in recent months. He is able to sit very calmly for a long time while Douglas puts his hands on his head.

"He always sleeps very well after seeing him."

### Free

Mr Ballard travels to Portugal to treat patients free of charge and is regularly called to Michigan, California and Chicago.

He said: "The healing has taken all my spare time and I now will have to start to reduce my business work to cover my demand.

"I enjoy every minute of the healing whether it be the rich or the poor, a small pain or many other problems such as stress, backs, arthritis, migraines, muscular pains."

He added: "Many of them that come to see me have given up hope as they have been unable to find the help they have needed.

"I only wish I could help more people but then that is not in my hands but in the powers above. You do not have to have faith, only hope and an open mind."

Spiritual healer Douglas Ballard with Jonathan Jeffery Courier photo 121131/27