

JC

Jewish Chronicle

40p

ESTABLISHED IN 1841 • No 6576 • MAY 5, 1995 • IYAR 5, 5755

CCProfile

The man who came to heal: Israeli-born psychic confronts scepticism over his claimed 'powers'

Joy Wolfe

Many people are sceptical about the powers claimed by the likes of Uri Geller, finding it hard to believe it is possible to bend spoons or repair clocks merely by touching them.

The same scepticism applies to those, like Israeli-born Mancunian Coby Zvikler, from Whitefield, who claim to have healing powers and

appear to be able to make others respond involuntarily in a physical way. And, as Coby acknowledges, most physicians are still very much among the sceptics.

Born in Haifa, to an English mother and a Polish father, he was four years old when they came to live in Manchester. At an early age Coby felt he had unusual powers, but says he pushed them to the back of his mind, not really wanting to acknowl-

edge them while having little understanding of their implications.

As a teenager, he says, he made people's limbs move and tingle as a party trick.

But things got more complicated, he says, when his power started to affect electrical gadgets, lighting and answering machines.

Lights, he maintains, go off and on in his house without even being touched.

Determined to put his "powers" to the back of his mind, Coby went into the family leather business and became a successful businessman.

But friends encouraged him to use his less orthodox talents, and he began to work with healers.

At first, he says he himself "didn't really believe" in his own powers.

It was only when he returned to Israel around three years ago that he found his relative's powers. "I was surprised to be able to do that," he says, "and I realized the extent of my powers."

He left the leather business and decided to concentrate on working with patients with whom he is a physiotherapist. He has had little success. The only patients, he says, were drawn to him claiming, for example, that they had had their back pains and other ailments eased.

Coby's real breakthrough came when he began to video his work. To his surprise, some people claimed they had been "treated" just by watching the video.

He now runs several clinics, and has performed demonstrations at the Enshawe Hospital, though most doctors are still sceptical about his claims.

His future plans include a tour of America. He is adamant that he is not interested in "doing a circuit" of public appearances. His interest, he says, is in "healing and entertaining."



Israeli-born Coby Zvikler (left), who claims healing powers, conducts a session at his Whitefield home