



20 October 2005

City man saved by housing staff

A pensioner told of his gratitude today after meeting the quick thinking housing staff who saved his life.

John Molloy collapsed at his home in Alpha House, Hillfields, on October 6 after falling ill. The former postman was unable to leave his property and, after a period without food, was on the brink of death.

The actions of Whitefriars employees Richard Cunningham, Kelly Lewis, Mary Higginson and Justin Wilson led to his rescue and, according to paramedics, saved the 80-year-old's life.

Following an enquiry from a concerned neighbour, the team carried out spot checks to determine whether Mr Molloy was at home. Knocking repeatedly on the door, calls to local hospitals and efforts to contact his next of kin were unsuccessful.

Modest hero Richard Cunningham, a ranger at Whitefriars, said: "We are so lucky that we found him when we did. The ambulance team said that another day and he would not have survived. As he has no family living nearby and his friends don't often visit, no one had realised something was wrong.

"A neighbour raised the alarm after mentioning he hadn't heard Mr Molloy for a while. I called round but could get no response after knocking and knocking and shouting through the door."

After no reply, and confirmation from the local housing office that no next of kin lived in the area, the dedicated out-of-hours response team was called and, with the police in attendance, Whitefriars employee Justin Wilson broke-in.

Mr Molloy was found on the floor unconscious. The paramedics stated that had he been left there overnight, he would probably have died.

Mr Molloy, who left hospital this week following his full recovery, said: "I am very grateful to the staff. It is good to know someone cares.

"I fell ill and then just couldn't get out of bed. I'm independent and don't want to cause any trouble, but I couldn't get any food and was really weak. I wouldn't have lasted another day.

"I really want to thank Richard and the others. I don't know how they knew I was there. Kelly visited me in hospital, which was really nice. I think the whole of Coventry was looking for me."

Housing officer Kelly said: "Mr Molloy is a lovely character. As soon as the call came from Richard, I knew something was wrong and I was so pleased he was found and has made a full recovery.

"He is fiercely independent, but we are working with the council to ensure he gets the support he needs and looks after himself. He was very lucky."

The Irishman, who served in the RAF and came to Coventry in 1942, handed over gifts to his lifesavers.

Brian Tidman, operations manager at Whitefriars, said: "Myself, and everyone at Whitefriars, are very proud of my team. They did a fantastic job and went the extra mile to ensure a tenant was safe and well.

"Their actions, local knowledge and relationship with tenants, helped save a life. They are truly a credit to the organisation and we have given them all a gift as a token of our appreciation. Thank you also to the all the neighbours in the block who helped raise the alarm."

