

The Times



Runaway dustcart wrecks house — but Elvis lives

A RUNAWAY 20-ton refuse lorry wrecked a house yesterday when it rolled 40 yards down a hill and forced a car through the front wall into the living room, trapping the owner upstairs in a bedroom.

Neighbours in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, had to scramble through rubble with ladders to rescue Colin Campbell, who escaped unhurt.

Mr Campbell, 30, an audiologist, said: "I just heard a terrific bang and fell to the floor. Everything just stopped

and I managed to get back up again and I checked myself to see if everything was OK.

"I definitely think I'm a lucky man. One of the firefighters asked me if I would put his lottery money on for him later."

The binmen were all collecting rubbish when their lorry, which it was thought did not have the handbrake applied properly, ran down the steep street, pushing a neighbour's Volvo into Mr Campbell's £185,000 detached house.

To his embarrassment, the

accident caused a lifesize model of Elvis Presley, which he had hidden away in a bedroom, to make an unwelcome reappearance.

"I bought the model about six years ago from a market in Birmingham. It was a bit of an impulse buy," he said, adding that it cost him about £100. "I had hidden him away in one of the bedrooms, hoping that no one would ever see it again.

"Now he seems to be standing at the front of the house. Elvis lives, again."