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Defibrillators save lives - the proof is in Galmoy

Naoise O'Donovan-Coogan

A defibrillator has saved the life of a man who collapsed at a funeral in Galmoy, north Kilkenny over the weekend.

John Hyland of Clough, Ballacolla county Laois was attending a funeral on Saturday morning in Galmoy when he collapsed in the church just minutes before the funeral began.

Four local people who had been trained in the use of a defibrillator rushed to his aid. Once the defibrillator was brought to the scene they administered the shocks to Mr Hyland, who regained a pulse but lost it again. The trained team managed to resuscitate Mr Hyland a second time which saved his life. He was rushed

to St Luke's Hospital by ambulance where he is said to have made a good recovery.

The defibrillator was bought recently through fund-raising in the parish by local women Avril Phelan and Triona Lonergan. It is brought to any major event that takes place in the parish.

This was the first time that the defibrillator was used in an emergency situation in Galmoy. Some 12 members of the community have been trained in the use of the equipment.

This incident highlights the need for defibrillators to be made available to every parish and sports club in the country.