



Guard . . Geoff & RiRi

RIRI'S IRISH EX MINDER SHOT

By JOHN HAND, News and Crime Correspondent

RIHANNA'S ex-minder Geoff Keating was shot in Dublin yesterday — months after claiming a gangster put a €15,000 bounty on his head.

He was hit by five pellets, with one stuck in his skull. But defiant Keating declared: "I want them to know that they failed. I'm still alive."

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STAR'S NEW SHOW

Picture: OWEN BEHAN



KAT WHO GOT THE DREAM

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JOKER'S FESTIVE JOY

BREN'S GIFT OF LIFE

Lifesaver . . . Brendan as Mrs Brown



EXCLUSIVE by KEN SWEENEY, Showbiz Editor

BRENDAN O'Carroll has told of his joy after equipment he provided to the FAI saved a life.

A player had a cardiac episode during a match in Tipperary last Saturday — days after Cahir Park AFC received their Mrs Brown's Boys FAI Heart Care Programme defibrillator.

After the defib restarted the dad's heart, Bren beamed: "It has made my Christmas."

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Mrs Brown actor saves dad

STAR'S DEFIB SAVED DAD'S LIFE

All heart . . .
Bren and Jenny



Myself and
Jenny are
so proud, it's
wonderful
— BRENDAN

Gift of life . . . Cahir Park receive defib

EXCLUSIVE by KEN SWEENEY

MRS Brown star Brendan O'Carroll has told of his Christmas joy after gear he provided to the FAI helped save a dad's life.

The Irish Sun can reveal how a footie player had a cardiac episode in Tipperary last Saturday — just two days after Cahir Park AFC were given a new defibrillator.

The life-saving equipment — which had been issued to the club as part of the Mrs Brown's Boys FAI Heart Care Programme — was used to restart the man's heart.

After he was rushed to hospital, the player survived the shocking incident and is now recovering at home with his family.

Last night, Brendan said he is over the moon after finding out that a defib sponsored by his hit comedy TV show saved a man's life just before Christmas.

Brendan told The Irish Sun: "Myself and Jenny are so proud. This is such wonderful news to see out the New Year. To save one life makes it all worth it."

A source told us: "The player's heart stopped and the Mrs Brown defibrillator was used to restart it."

"His life was saved. This is a man with kids and they will have their dad this Christmas thanks to Mrs Brown."

Brendan and his co-star wife Jenny launched the Heart Care programme in 2018. There are over 5,000 sudden cardiac deaths in Ireland every year.

Mrs Brown's Boys committed €430,000 over six years to the programme, developed under the guidance of FAI Medical Director, Dr Alan Byrne.

Hundreds of clubs have so far benefited from the grassroots scheme which sees a state-of-the-art Lifepak CR2 (cellular version) defibrillator, along with an eight-year mobile phone data plan and training for ten people in basic life support and use of an automatic external defibrillator.

The package is valued at €3,600 but benefits from an FAI discount, which brings the total cost down to €2,500. The package is reduced to €1,250 after Government funding.

The Heart Care Programme

Lifesaver . . . Dr Alan Byrne



has also referred hundreds of young footballers for cardiology assessment and treatment.

Brendan told us: "Myself and Jenny are delighted to be involved in this. Although there have now been many, just one life saved makes it all worthwhile. Bravo to Dr Alan Byrne and the FAI, who are amazing partners in making the programme happen."

The 69-year-old previously revealed to The Irish Sun the personal story that had inspired him to help.

Brendan explained: "We have six grandsons. I'd rather not mention his name, but one of them

was about ten when he was out playing football and he got a ball in the stomach.

"It badly winded him and he passed out and was taken to hospital. We found out that this triggered diabetes.

"I thought to myself, 'What if that had been heart failure?' — nobody in the football ground knew any CPR, or how to use a defibrillator or about sudden adult death syndrome.

"There has to be a way we (Mrs Brown's Boys) can get involved to make sure that small clubs can get their kids screened.

"The FAI came to us with a programme where they could

screen a thousand kids, and we said, 'What would it cost to do them all, over six years?' — which is what we are now doing."

Brendan's connection with the FAI also helped to save his own life. He was appearing on a Late Late special from London when FAI medical director Dr Alan Byrne, watching from the team hotel, noticed the star appeared to be out of breath while answering questions from host Ryan Tubridy.

He told us in 2019: "I remember feeling breathless for some reason. I'd sneaked out for a smoke before the interview and then they'd said, 'Come back quick, you're on'. I felt

breathless at the time but this was really bad and Alan who was watching it at home noticed it."

Within days, Brendan was being operated on at Beacon Hospital where surgery revealed a blockage around his heart.

"I would have had a heart attack only they put a stent in immediately. I got asked if I was out of my mind spending that much money. I said it would be worth it if it saved even one life. Well, it was — f***** mine."

● **TWO** Mrs Brown's Boys specials air this Christmas — Ding Dong Mammy on Christmas Day at 9pm on RTE One, and B&B Mammy on New Year's Eve at 9.15pm.

● Player's heart gave in on pitch

MRS BROWN'S JOYS

● Brendan: It's made my Christmas