



## COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce Sliabh Luachra Culture & Heritage Centre as the 14th recipient of the Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme.

This is a three-year initiative (2017-2019) aimed at recognising the diversity and vibrancy of community work throughout the region. Every year NEWKD works with over 500 community groups, businesses and initiatives under our 4 Strategic Pillars:

- **Social Supports**
- **Employment Services**
- **Enterprise and Tourism**
- **Community, Environment & Rural Development**

The 'Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme' pays tribute to a number of recipients each year. Each project is selected for their uniqueness, vibrancy and responsiveness to addressing local need. Recipients are nominated locally through the NEWKD structures which operate in Tralee, Listowel, Castleisland and Dingle, and are exemplars of best practices and innovative solutions in social, economic and environmental development, while giving recognition to community leadership and entrepreneurs.

### *Previous recipients:*

1. Glanageenty Walkways
2. The Kerry Food Hub, Fies
3. Ballybunion Men's Shed
4. Dingle New Music Choir and Orchestra
5. Baile Mhuire Day Care Centre
6. Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels
7. Mol Teic - Dingle Creativity and Innovation Hub
8. NEWKD's Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs)
9. Castleisland Community Garden
10. Sliabh Luachra Boxing Club Castleisland
11. Áras Mhuire Nursing Home
12. Kerryhead/Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre
13. Community Café, Ballyduff

## Sliabh Luachra Culture and Heritage Centre

Situated in the village of Scartaglen, Co Kerry, the centre accommodates a 200 seater auditorium - suitable for shows, drama and dancing-, meeting rooms and kitchen area. The centre is also suitable for rehearsals, exhibitions, talks and workshops, and is a key community space and facility.

The centre takes its name from the renowned 'Sliabh Luachra' area, which is the mountainous area along the Cork/Kerry border and was the uninhabited wet, marshy, rushy, mountain area of the old Kingdom of Luachra first noted in the 'Annals of Inisfallen' in 534. The area is renowned worldwide for its distinctive cultural including music, dance, poetry and song.

Following extension and renovation the centre opened in May 2000. In addition to its remit as a Cultural and Heritage Centre it also hosts a wide variety of events throughout the year. The centre has key successes to date through its Rambling House, 'Handed Down Sessions' and as part of the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail, these are particular initiatives to preserve the Sliabh Luachra Culture, which was in danger of disappearing. The Sliabh Luachra Drama Group hosts an Annual play in the centre since 2001. Recently through financial support from NEWKD the centre has upgraded its audio and visual data systems to enhance production quality.



# Case Study 14

## Sliabh Luachra Culture & Heritage Centre SCARTAGLIN CO. KERRY



Activities in the centre include:

- Over 55's Social Club - Thursday mornings
- Sliabh Luachra Drama Group - Annual play held since 2001. Recent productions have been:
  - 2019: Translations
  - 2018: Far Off Hills
  - 2017: Sharon's Grave
- Rambling House, held 2nd Monday of every month, a traditional Irish Night featuring musicians, singers and storytellers
- Youth club - September to May
- Cooking Demonstrations and classes
- Dancing Weekly on a Sunday nights organised by JJ Herlihy
- Traditional Irish Music Lessons
- Traditional Irish Dancing Lessons
- Handed Down Sessions held monthly leading in to Annual World Fiddle Festival organised by PJ Teahan
- Local Link Kerry operate from the centre on a full time basis. As one of 17 Local Link offices National, Local Link Kerry have responsibility for the co-ordination and delivery of public transport services in rural areas and operate as an agent of the National Transport Authority.

The core centre activities are delivered and/or supported through the Over 55's Group including catering for events, meetings, funerals and the day to day operations.

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Sliabh Luachra Culture and Heritage Centre**  
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## SUPPORT FROM NEWKD

- *RSS - Rural Social Scheme - minor works.*
- *SICAP, through developmental supports, capacity building and group support and intervention.*
- *LEADER Programme: In 1999 €150,000 grant from 'Leader 1', in 2019 €10,500 towards upgrading of audio and visual data systems.*

## GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

- The core aim of the committee is to manage the operation of the Sliabh Luachra Cultural and Heritage Centre, to promote the strong cultural and heritage tradition in the area and to facilitate the provision of space and activities which respond to local needs.
- Involvement of all stakeholders on the committee has been key to the success of the centre, nominations are held annually, membership includes:
  - Scartaglin Youth Club
  - Sliabh Luachra Drama Group
  - Over 55's Social Club
  - Sliabh Luachra Rambling House
  - Scartaglin GAA
  - Scartaglin Ladies Football
  - Community Childcare Centre
  - Tidy Towns
  - Parents Council, National School
  - Local Link Kerry
  - Island Crown CE Scheme
  - Founding Members
- To learn from similar projects through shared visits.
- Harness the knowledge and skill set of the committee, motivate and support each other.
- Investment in community is central to success.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

NEWKD and Kerry Group wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to

## SLIABH LUACHRA CULTURE AND HERITAGE CENTRE

Presented in recognition of the valuable contribution the centre makes to the:

- Community Vibrancy specifically to the promotion of Cultural and Heritage
- Social Supports in the provision of essential community supports activities
- Community, Environment and Rural Development Leadership



May 2019