

NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE NEWSLETTER



MARCH
2025



The NEWKD Craft Circle is a welcoming community where groups come together once a week to explore a diverse range of arts and crafts. More than just a creative outlet, it fosters mental well-being, social inclusion, meaningful connections, and a strong sense of community. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a beginner, the NEWKD Craft Circle provides a supportive and inspiring space to unwind, express creativity, and build lasting friendships.



UPCOMING EVENTS

5th April

National Handmade Day

Encourages people to appreciate the skill and creativity that goes into making handcrafted items.

15th April

World Art Day

Usually celebrated on April 15th, the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci, one of the most famous artists in history.

17th March

St. Patrick's Day

Celebrated on March 17, honors Ireland's patron saint with parades, festivals, and the wearing of green.

22nd April

Adult Seasonal Flower Arranging with Maura's Cottage Flowers

Book on <https://siamsatire.com/event/adult-seasonal-flower-arranging-with-mauras-cottage-flowers/>

HOW IT ALL STARTED?

The NEWKD Craft Circle has been bringing people together through creativity for the past two years. It all began in Tralee on March 6, 2023, when I—Kristine—decided to revive something I had loved doing years ago. Inspired by the joy of crafting and the power of connection, I wanted to create a space where people could come together, express their creativity, and build a sense of community. I was very fortunate to get support and advice from Dee Keogh, SICAP Development Worker from NEWKD and support from SICAP programme. What started as a simple idea has grown into a vibrant and welcoming group. I look forward to every Monday evening coming to our group and to meet all lovely group members, and we are very excited to share this journey with you all!

At the moment NEWKD Craft Circle groups meet in 6 locations - Tralee, Listowel, Ballyduff, Ballybunion, Dingle and Lyreacrompane.

If you would like to join any of groups, contact Kristine on 086 6602147 or Dee on 087 6356353.

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STORIES OF IMPACT



Over the past two years, our six NEWKD Craft Circle groups have shared countless amazing moments, with even more exciting plans ahead. Through these quarterly newsletters, we celebrate our achievements, creativity, and the strong community we've built. Let's keep inspiring, creating, and growing together!

NEWKD Craft Circles are a vital and engaged force within their communities, constantly contributing to local events, charity initiatives, and creating meaningful connections with other groups and organizations. Their energy and dedication shine through in a variety of activities, from crafting items for special events to participating in collaborative projects that benefit a wide range of causes. A standout moment came in November 2024 at the **Kerry Women's Centre** conference in Tralee. The Listowel group crafted over 100 beautiful bracelets for goodie bags, while Rebecca from the Tralee group folded 100 origami peace cranes, adding a special touch. The Tralee group also showcased a stunning collection of arts and crafts, making the event truly memorable.



Another remarkable collaboration took place in 2024 between the NEWKD Craft Circle Tralee group and the **Up Stitch International Women's Sewing group**, based in Ragoonane Community Centre, which is also run by NEWKD. The women from both groups came together to create over 40 unique tote bags, each one intricately embroidered with the NEWKD Craft Circle logo. These handmade bags, each with its own distinct design, were not only a testament to the skill and creativity of the women involved but also a symbol of the strong connections being forged within the community. As a special treat, the Tralee group members were delighted to receive these one-of-a-kind tote bags as Christmas presents from Santa himself, making the occasion even more memorable and heartwarming.

Tralee group facilitator Rebecca with Santa, receiving her Christmas present - handmade, embroidered- tote bag.

Dec 2024

Through these and many other projects, the NEWKD Craft Circles continue to make a lasting impact, demonstrating the power of creativity and collaboration to foster community spirit, support charitable causes, and celebrate the talents of women from all walks of life.

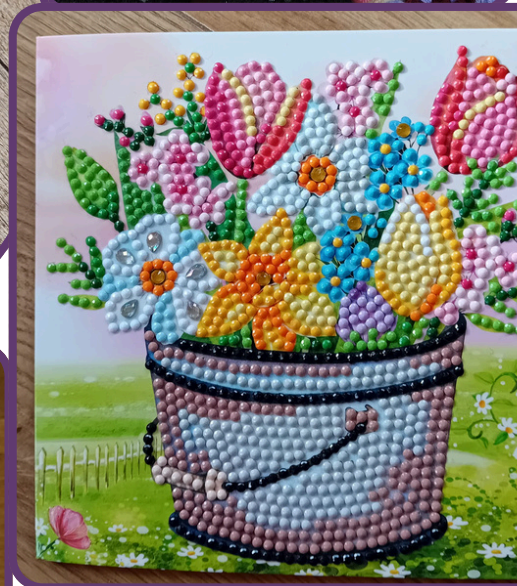


INSPIRATION CORNER

All artworks by
NEWKD Craft Circle members



Well Done



Amazing



SOME FACTS

- Each group is diverse, uniting individuals of different nationalities, abilities, and cultural backgrounds. Participants also vary in age, creating a dynamic and inclusive environment where different perspectives, experiences, and traditions can be shared and appreciated.
- Some of the arts and crafts done in groups are - embroidery, crochet, quilting, quilting, knitting, crosstitch, colouring, painting, jewellery making, macrame, button art, origami, book folding, basket making from paper straws, decoration making, diamond art, card making, clay art, drawing, stone painting, sewing, cake decorating, punch needle art, bag making, decoupage, dried flower art, patchwork, weaving, floristry, scratch art and scrapbook making.
- In October 2024 - 3 groups from Ballyduff, Ballybunion and Tralee came together for a NEWKD Craft Circle Halloween Crafts Workshop, it was attended by more than 70 adults and children.



Easter card making with Anna Tralee Group



CRAFTING TIP FROM GROUP MEMBER

Ber from Listowel group shared that it is available to join BorrowBox through Kerry library. BorrowBox offers eAudiobooks, eBooks, eNewspapers and eMagazines to all library users. These can be enjoyed either on your PC/laptop or on your mobile device via the BorrowBox app. Imagine :) you can get **FREE** access to **ALL CRAFT MAGAZINES!!!!** It is pretty easy to set up the application, but you can call into your local library and they will help you. For more information go to <https://www.kerrylibrary.ie/>



DONATIONS

We welcome and would be very grateful for any art & craft material donations for any of our groups. Wool is especially welcome as we knit and crochet blankets for many local charities. If you would like to support us, please contact Kristine or Dee. We would like to acknowledge all kind people who have given, gifted and donated materials to our groups.

♡♡♡ THANK YOU ♡♡♡

Esther's Starburst granny square crochet cardigan Tralee group



CREATIVITY AFFIRMATIONS

Every creative thought I express provides me with great joy.

Fresh new ideas come to me daily.

I am an unlimited creative being.



well done!

This February Listowel group made St Brigid's crosses, which were sold in An Siopa Milseán in Abbeyfeale. 225 € were raised from the sale with proceeds going to Kerry Hospice.

CRAFT HIGHLIGHT

Decoupage – Decorating surfaces by gluing paper cutouts and coating them with varnish. A great activity for making home decor items.

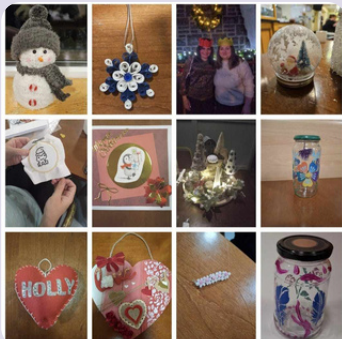
Project Idea: Decorate glass jars or wooden plaques with Christmas, Halloween, or Easter-themed prints.

Decoupage crafts in Ballyduff group.



NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE BALLYDUFF GROUP

Ballyduff Craft Circle started our Christmas 2024 crafts by making cute snowmen out of socks and rice, then we quilled snowflakes. Guest facilitators Siobhan and Ancilla did Christmas cross stitch and card making with us. We had a lovely Christmas dinner at Lowes Bar with Secret Santa and a table centre piece competition. This January and February we did glass painting, jewellery making and Valentines crafts. Kerry, group facilitator.



GET INVOLVED!

Tralee group is taking part in THE BIG KNIT organised by Innocent Smoothies. They have teamed up with Age Action and are donating 30c to them for every be-hatted bottle sold to help older people in Ireland. So far we have made and posted 300 amazing, creative little hats and we are working on lots more to post this spring. This has become an international project for us as my mom Inese in Latvia is knitting them too and she will send them to Ireland to support this worthy cause.

To find out more go to <https://www.innocentdrinks.ie/big-knit>. There you will find all info and also all available patterns.



One of many hats made by Kitty in Tralee and big bunch of little hats made by Inese in Latvia.



FOR FUN



Why did the crafter bring a ladder to the art class?

Because they wanted to take their skills to the next level!



MY CREATIVE JOURNEY - ALEKSANDRA'S STORY

Since I can remember, creativity has been a part of me. It comes naturally, as if it has always been there, waiting to express itself. One of my earliest memories is begging my grandmother to teach me how to knit when I was just four or five. At first, she didn't believe I could do it, but after much persistence, she gave in. To everyone's surprise, I picked it up quickly, and from that moment, my love for crafting only grew.

I don't limit myself to one particular type of art. Instead, I allow creativity to flow when it comes. Sometimes, there is a period of silence, a time when I create nothing, and then suddenly, inspiration strikes, and I immerse myself in a new project. I've explored various techniques, from macrame and woodworking to weaving baskets from paper tubes. When I started basket weaving, it felt so natural—almost as if I had done it before in another life. What began as small baskets for pens soon evolved into intricate jewellery boxes, vases, and decorative pieces of all shapes and sizes.

Some of my recent projects include Christmas baubles made from colourful ribbons, abstract designs drawn with markers, and handcrafted presents like 3D guardian angels for baby showers or weddings. I also love macrame, creating floating shelves and wall hangings. One of my favourite projects was a collaboration with my son and our neighbour when they were finishing primary school. We combined macrame with wood engraving to create a beautiful thank-you gift for their school—a unique, handmade piece that also served as a promotional artwork.

Inspiration often comes unexpectedly. During a holiday, I came across tiny spiral seashells, only about 5mm long. I immediately knew I had to collect them and later placed them in tiny glass bottles with sand to create special memory keepsakes. Another time, when a dear friend was struggling with sleep, I crafted a dreamcatcher for her. Seeing her appreciation and knowing it brought her comfort was incredibly fulfilling.

I don't create for a living, and perhaps that's what makes it so enjoyable. There's no pressure, only pure joy. Crafting provides balance in my life—it's a form of therapy, a way to reconnect with myself, and find peace.

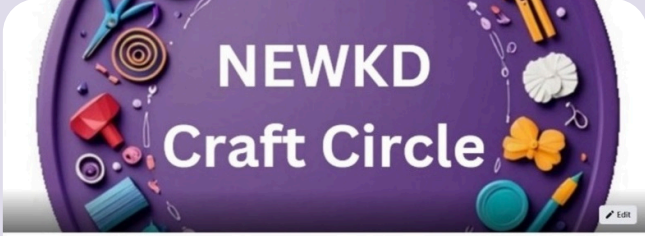
Joining the NEWKD Craft Circle in Lyreacompane has been a wonderful experience. It's not just about learning new techniques but also about sharing, teaching, and being part of a community of like-minded creative people. When I introduced paper basket weaving to the group, I wasn't sure how it would be received. But the enthusiasm was incredible! We took our time, step by step—rolling tubes, painting, weaving, and varnishing. Seeing the excitement and pride on everyone's faces when they completed their baskets was the most rewarding part.

I'm always eager to learn new skills and try techniques I haven't explored yet. Creativity is a journey, and being part of a group like this makes it even more meaningful. If I were to give advice to someone wanting to start arts and crafts, I'd say: just begin. Don't overthink it, don't fear mistakes—creativity is about expression, and there are no wrong answers. I'm grateful to be part of this circle, to create, share, and inspire. And I can't wait to see what comes next.



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

You are welcome to join our NEWKD Craft Circle Facebook group on the link below, if you have interest in arts and crafts and would like to see what is happening in our groups. In addition there is a vast information shared daily of upcoming local events, courses, patterns and general information about things happening in Kerry.



NEWKD Craft Circle

NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newkdcraftcircle>



FT: Kristine Sasko, Luella Souza and Dee Keogh attending Craft Circle Arts display as part of Culture Night in Áras a bail, Tralee on Friday.

Picture from Kerrys Eye, Sept 2024

The pictures, texts, and patterns featured in NEWKD Craft Circle newsletters may have been sourced from various online platforms. While we strive to use materials that are publicly available or properly credited, we acknowledge that some content may originate from different creators. If you recognize any material that requires attribution or removal, please let us know, and we will address it promptly.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for this newsletter! If there's a topic you'd like us to cover, a story you'd like to share, or feedback on how we can improve, we'd love to hear from you. Your input helps us create content that is relevant and valuable to our readers. Feel free to reach out to Kristine at kristinesasko@newkd.ie, 086 6602147 or Dee at deekeogh@newkd.ie, 087 6356353. We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing your thoughts! Competitions are independently organized and are not affiliated with NEWKD or any other organization. It is for fun and creativity only! This publication is put together by Kristine Sasko, NEWKD Craft Circle Facilitator

OUR OWN CRAFTERS BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Valerie is one of Listowel group's facilitators and she has her own little crafts business - Val's Cards n Crafts located in Duagh, Co.Kerry. Valerie creates personalised cards which have been sent all over the world for many different celebrations from weddings, new baby, special birthdays to the more quirky cards for dentists, Dr's etc.



She also makes frames, keyrings and has many more crafts available which you can find displayed at many Craft Fairs and events in and around Co.Kerry and more recently in Limerick, Cork and Clare. To order from Valerie contact her on her Facebook page or WhatsApp on 087 6680879.

Valerie has very kindly offered an exclusive discount code for all NEWKD Craft Circle members and all NEWKD staff, volunteers etc., 10% off for the month of March, quote code NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE to avail of this offer. In addition she will be celebrating 10 years in business this May and will offer discount to all public, check her [Facebook page](#) for details. BEST OF LUCK TO VALERIE IN HER BUSINESS!

WIN!

Card-Making Competition!

Create a greeting card with a unique theme. Share it in our Facebook group or show your group facilitator. Best design and message wins! Entry closing date 31st May. Open to anyone.



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ARTISTS

Spring has Sprung cake decorating class

Join Kayla from Love And Frosting Co. and learn how to decorate your own spring themed cake

When: Saturday March 22
12pm-2pm

Where: Fairtree Village
Demo Kitchen

Cost: €45 per person

Pre-booking/payment is required



Mimosas, non-alcoholic bubbles, homemade gluten-free baked goods all included. Each person will take home the cake they decorated

FLORAL ORIGAMI WORKSHOP WITH AN EASTER TWIST

Origami Class for Adults and Teenagers

APRIL 13TH
2 TO 4 PM

FAIRTREE VILLAGE, CAHERBREACH, TRALEE, CO. KERRY, V92 DYOY

€20 PER PERSON
INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS

TO BOOK CALL REBECCA ON 086 869 0322 OR EMAIL REBECCALYONS1977@GMAIL.COM

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE TO PAYPAL ME/REBECCALYONS1977 OR @REBECCAORIGAMI ON REVOLUT

TK FLOWERS

Mothers Day Floral Workshop

Sunday March 30th - 10.30-12.30

Create a beautiful Floral Hatbox with Karen & Brid. The perfect morning to celebrate all kinds of Moms.

Tickets: €30pp
(Link in Bio)

Venue: Fairtree Village - Demo Kitchen

www.tkflowers.ie

You can't use up
creativity.
The more you
use, the more you
have.
Maya Angelou

18 +

NEWKD
Craft Circle
6 locations in
Co. Kerry

Friendly, relaxed
social space:

Learn & share new skills
Work on your own project
Improve mental wellness
Meet new people
Time for yourself
Have some fun

Everyone
Welcome!

Weekly groups
meeting in Tralee,
Listowel, Ballyduff,
Ballybunion, Dingle,
Lyreacrompane, and
more to come...

Contact Kristine on
086 6602147

USEFUL RESOURCES

Kerry PPN
Community Newsletter

Kerry Volunteer Centre

Kerry County Council's
Arts Office

NEWKD

Kerry County Museum

Kerry Library

Siamsa Tíre
Theatre & Arts Centre

The Arts Council