

NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

JUNE
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.

2 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



It's hard to believe that the NEWKD Craft Circle has already been running for two years! What began in Tralee in March 2023 has now grown into weekly groups across seven locations throughout County Kerry.

We marked this special milestone with a wonderful celebration in Tralee. Anastasiia treated us to a beautiful, calming sound bath, we got creative with birthday card making, and enjoyed some delicious buns lovingly baked by Esther and decorated by Colette.

In May new group started in Ballyheigue and at start of June Ballyduff group celebrated their 1st birthday.

The level of interest, support, and attendance has been nothing short of incredible. Each week brings a rich variety of skills, arts, crafts, workshops, and learning opportunities – and the diversity continues to grow.

But at the heart of it all is a simple goal: to create time for yourself and connect with like-minded people. Over time, we've seen friendships form, bonds strengthen, and a beautiful sense of community flourish. We've welcomed people from all walks of life – of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds – and it's been a privilege to share this journey together. So much has happened in these past two years – and as we look back with gratitude, we're just as excited for what's still to come.

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





NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE TRIP TO DINGLE



In May, over 50 members of the NEWKD Craft Circle, along with friends from other community groups, took a wonderful trip to Dingle to celebrate the Féile na Bealtaine 2025 festival. It was a truly unforgettable day – the sun was shining, the atmosphere was full of energy, and the town came alive with creativity and celebration.

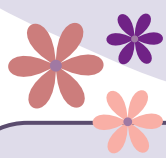
We explored inspiring exhibitions, enjoyed lively music, watched the colourful parade, and savoured some absolutely fabulous local food. The streets were brimming with talent, as local artists and performers shared their work, making it a feast for the senses and the soul.

What made the day even more special was the shared joy of experiencing it together – connecting with each other, meeting new people, and simply enjoying the magic of the moment. This memorable outing was proudly supported by the SICAP Programme through NEWKD, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a vibrant and enriching cultural event.



SO MUCH FUN





STORIES OF IMPACT



Our Craft Circle group members are incredibly generous with their time, talents, skills, and resources. Their passion for creativity is matched by a deep commitment to giving back – and to date, they've proudly contributed to seven inspiring charity projects, both locally and internationally.

Here are some of the amazing initiatives they've supported:

- One Million Stars Ireland – promoting hope and solidarity through woven star art.
- Knitted Baby Gowns for Children in Africa – lovingly handmade gowns for infants in need.
- Kerry Cancer Support Group – Square to Share Project – creating knitted squares for comfort blankets for cancer patients in Kerry.
- Blankets for Cancer Support – warm, handmade blankets for those undergoing treatment.
- Innocent Smoothies BIG KNIT – knitting tiny 500+ hats to raise funds for older people in Ireland.
- Glasses Collection for Africa – donating used spectacles to support better vision for others.
- Blankets for BUMBLEance – crafting comforting blankets for the Children's National Ambulance Service.

These projects reflect the heart of our community – using creativity to make a real difference in people's lives. We're proud of every contribution and look forward to supporting many more worthy causes in the future.

More than 600 squares donated to Kerry Cancer Support Group Square to Share Project

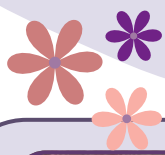


Knitted baby gowns for newborns in Africa



Woven origami stars for One Million Stars Ireland project





STORIES OF IMPACT



Blankets for BUMBLEance – crocheted comforting blankets for the Children’s National Ambulance Service

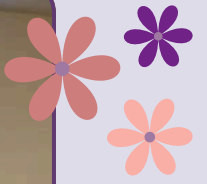


Innocent Smoothies BIG KNIT – knitted and crocheted 500+ hats



INSPIRATION CORNER

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members

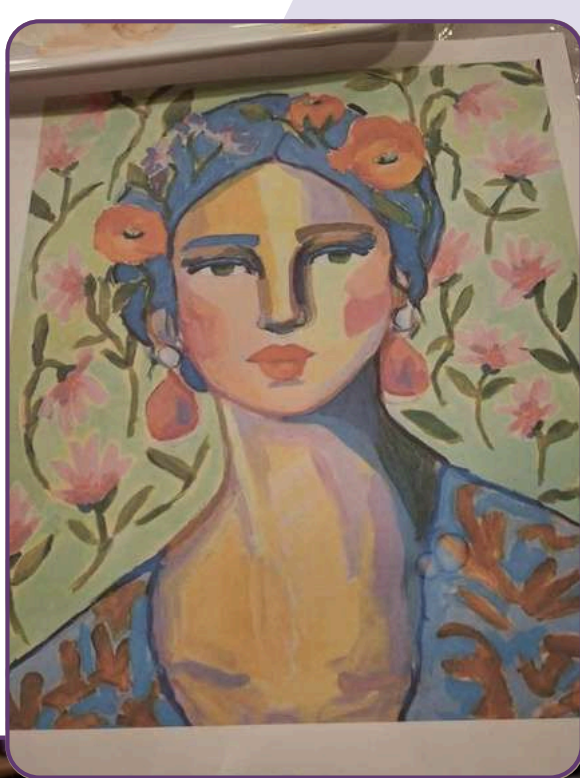
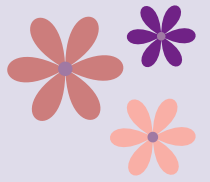


FANTASTIC!



INSPIRATION CORNER

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members



well
done!



The bird has long
been a talisman of
family happiness and
well-being. This amulet
used to hang in every
home. A bird amulet
takes away the negative
energy that a person
can bring into the
house and lets in only
the good.



AIR – DRY CLAY FAIRY HOUSES

Air-dry clay has quickly become one of the most popular materials our groups have enjoyed working with over the past few months.

We used it to create whimsical fairy houses, combining glass jars, air-dry clay, glue, foil, paint, decorations, and shimmering gems. Each fairy house is wonderfully unique, reflecting the creativity of its maker and bringing a magical charm to our crafting sessions.

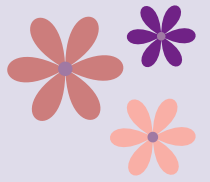


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well
done!



FANTASTIC!



CARD COMPETITION



Congratulations to Ancilla, Laima, Mary and Aleksandra for submitting the beautiful cards!

NEWKD Craft Circle groups and their talented members can be found at a variety of food & craft markets across Kerry, including Listowel, Tralee, and other local venues.

To find out where we'll be next, visit [our Facebook page](#) for the latest updates and event announcements. We look forward to seeing you there!



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 ♥♥♥

Beautiful, handmade NEWKD Craft Circle flag made by Kerry from Listowel group

BALLYBUNION CRAFT CIRCLE – A GROWING CREATIVE COMMUNITY

The Ballybunion Craft Circle, based at Ballybunion Community Centre, has been running since September 2024 and has quickly grown into a welcoming and vibrant space where creativity brings people together. As a representative of the Community Centre, I am proud to see how this initiative has become a regular part of local life. Every week, local residents and members of different nationalities come together to explore arts and crafts in a friendly, supportive environment. The group has developed a strong sense of community, where participants not only learn new techniques but also build new friendships. Our sincere thanks go to NEWKD, whose support has played a key role in the success of our group. The facilitators provided by NEWKD have brought fantastic ideas, fresh inspiration, and a real spark to our sessions. Their enthusiasm and skills have attracted new participants and encouraged regular members to try new forms of artistic expression, such as glass painting, quilling, jewellery making, and seasonal decorations. The Ballybunion Craft Circle continues to grow, with plans for more collaborative projects, themed workshops, and community displays. We are excited about what lies ahead and grateful to everyone who helps make this group a place of creativity, inclusion, and joy. Tetiana Popova, Integration Support Worker



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

If you have an interest in arts, crafts, and community creativity, we'd love for you to like and follow our NEWKD Craft Circle Facebook page! Stay up to date with our latest events, workshops, group activities, and all the inspiring things happening across our craft circles. Just click the link below to join our growing creative community!



FOLLOW

US ON FACEBOOK

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We welcome your ideas and suggestions for this newsletter! If there's a topic you'd like us to cover or a story you'd like to share. 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! This publication is put together by Kristine Sasko, NEWKD Craft Circle Facilitator



OUR OWN CRAFTERS BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT OVER THE MOON BALLOONS AND GIFTS

Kerry is the talented facilitator of the Ballyduff Craft Circle and the creative force behind Over the Moon Balloons and Gifts. She specialises in crafting beautiful, air-filled balloons, balloon arches, and decorative displays for all occasions, with the option to personalise each design to make it truly unique.

In addition to her balloon creations, Kerry offers a lovely selection of personalised gifts, including custom photo frames, glasses, and bespoke hampers—perfect for any celebration. These are available for collection in Ballyduff. For larger events, Kerry provides full on-site set-ups, including stunning balloon arches and themed decorations at venues or private homes across Ballyduff, Tralee, Tarbert, Ballybunion, Ballyheigue, and Listowel. To place an order or make an enquiry, contact Kerry at:

✉ overthemoonballoons@outlook.com

☎ 087 216 2716

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/OverTheMoonBalloonsandGifts>



NEWKD





NEWKD Craft Circle



**A friendly, relaxed, and creative social space
in 7 locations across County Kerry!**

- Learn & share new skills
- Work on your own creative projects
- Improve your mental wellness
- Meet new people & socialise
- Enjoy time for yourself
- Boost your creativity
- Gain confidence in your abilities
- Exchange ideas & inspiration
- Try new techniques & materials
- Be part of a supportive community
- Discover hidden talents
- Share laughter and stories
- Celebrate achievements together

Have Fun!



Weekly Meetups:

Tralee – Mondays, 7–9pm

Áras an Phobail, Croílár na Mistéalach,
Dean's Lane, V92 CRW8

Ballyduff – Mondays, 7–9pm

Benmore, Ballyduff, V92 A2VC

Ballyheigue – Tuesdays, 7–9pm

Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre,
Sraid Thaidhg, V92 N22

Listowel – Wednesdays, 7–9pm

NEWkd Offices (Old Post Office), 20
William Street, V31 TR68

Dingle – Wednesdays, 7–9pm

An Díseart, Dingle, V92 VW74

Ballybunion – Thursdays, 10am–12noon

Ballybunion Community Centre, V31
TV25

Lyreacrompane – Thursdays, 7–9pm

Lyreacrompane Resource Centre, V31
DA36

For more info, contact:

Dee – 087 635 6353

Kristine – 086 660 2147