



Community Newsletter

Nuachtlitir Pobail

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North East & West Kerry Development

Forbairt Chiarrai Thuaidh Thiar & Thoir

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Summer / Samhradh 2025

In this issue of the NewKD Community Newsletter we are delighted to bring you some updates from our work with and for our community. You will also find information about events, as well as stories that showcase the wonderful people who make our community so special.

We have included some inspiring examples of people who have availed of our services, therefore showing the impact our work can have on people's lives. If you are interested in availing of any of our supports and services do not hesitate to contact us by phone, email or call in to one of our offices.

Pat O'Shea, Chairperson *Eamonn O'Reilly, CEO*

LEADER

Development led by local communities

NewKD LEADER Projects approved by Kerry LCDC to date.

NEWKD: The Wool Partnership Feasibility Study	€4,981
Tim & Kathleen Regan: On Farm Accommodation Feasibility Study	€10,800
Bainne Blasta Ltd: Bottle & sell farm milk through vending machines	€101,662
Gateway Glamping: Purchase of Pod	€14,894
Bayview Glamping: Glamping Pods development	€199,937
Tralee Equestrian Centre: Development and Expansion	€59,722
The Little Dingle Film Festival LTD: Marketing and Equipment	€51,107
Brian Farrell: West of Dingle Sea Salt Feasibility Study	€21,690
RT Sales LTD: ProArm Hedgecutters manufacturing equipment	€41,065
Prestige Foods LTD: Equipment upgrade	€105,000
NEWKD: Barista Work Ready Training Programme	€68,000
NEWKD: Revamp Feasibility study	€13,284
Comharchumann Dhún Chaoin Teo: Playground Development	€149,224
CFLT Cloghane /Brandon - Handball Alley Roof Repair	€34,050
Brosna GAA: Development of walking track	€46,433
St Brendans Community Centre: Community Centre Feasibility Study	€11,623
Spa-Fenit-Barrow-Kerries Community Group CLG: Community Centre Feasibility Study	€22,361
Comharchumann Forbartha an Leigh Triúigh Teo: Feasibility Study to develop walking trails & information hub in Cloghane/ Brandon	€28,117
Castlegregory Community Complex Development: Feasibility Study	€22,361
St Mary's Asdee GAA Club: Community Walking Track	€63,120
Causeway and Destrict Resource, Daycare, Recreational and Social Development: Community Centre / Shannon Ballroom Phase 2	€156,693
Rathea Irremore Community Group: Refurbish Gym	€18,422
NEWKD: CE TEAM Project, personal development training programme	€19,310
NEWKD: Resilience and Wellbeing Training Camp for Migrant Youth	€20,000
Ballylongford Playground Development committee: Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) Facility	€67,356
Firies Sports Facility CLG: Gamepoint Community Hub	€134,268
Knocknagoshel Enviromental and Angling Association: ICW Study	€5,479
Comharchumann Forbatha an Leigh Triúigh Teo: Feasibility study & civil design for community-led Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW) in Cloghane	€29,889
Total	€1,520,857



Jobs Fair 2025: Jobseekers and employers gathered at the Rose Hotel in Tralee on Tuesday the 20th May. The event featured over 30 of the county's leading companies, offering hundreds of vacancies across various sectors. It was organised by NEWKD in partnership with The Rose Hotel and Tralee Chamber Alliance. Attendees got to explore opportunities in sectors such as office administration, IT, accounting, finance, hospitality, manufacturing, food production and retail. In addition to employer booths, a careers clinic provided job-search support including CVs, job interview preparation and information on upskilling and professional development, as well as workshops for both employees and employers on employing non-Irish citizens.



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 with NEWKD and support from SICAP. What started as a simple idea has grown into a vibrant and welcoming group. Now NEWKD Craft Circle groups meet in 6 locations: Tralee, Listowel, Ballyduff, Ballybunion, Dingle and Lyreacrompane. And a new Group will start soon in Ballyheigue. The NEWKD Craft Circle is a welcoming community where people 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. If you would like to join any of groups, contact Kristine on 086 6602147 or Dee on 087 6356353. More information and some examples of our talents and work can be seen on NEWKD Craft Circle Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/newkdcraftcircle>





NEWKD Craft Circle
6 locations in Co. Kerry

18 +

Everyone Welcome!

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

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

Contact Kristine on
086 6602147







Tús Case Study: Joe was employed with NEWKD on the Tús Community Work Placement initiative in Castleisland, and was with Revamp Furniture for 16 months, as a furniture restorer with Revamp. Joe is a skilled carpenter and brought his expertise and craftsmanship to the project contributing to many restored items donated to Revamp. Joe has a great flair for carpentry, with a unique approach to design, a strong attention to detail, and ability to create aesthetically pleasing and functional woodwork. An example of Joe's creativity and skill as a carpenter was to repurpose old broken furniture into a sweet cart giving new life to materials that would otherwise have been thrown away. The sweet cart – which has since been sold! – is a charming, functional addition to any setting, whether it's for a community event, a market, or as part of a local initiative. Joe brought a very positive, enthusiastic attitude to his work and was a pleasure to work with!

Kerry Local Areas Employment Service

(KLAES) Case Study: Tom, a 57 year old male, unemployed for last 7 years, joined KLAES in August 2024 after completing his Bs(c) Hons in Manufacturing & Mechanical Engineering NQ Level 8 at Munster Technology University in May 2024. During his time with KLAES along with working with his employment officer, Tom availed of a Safe Pass with SICAP (Dave Fitzgibbon), a Forklift certification course with SICAP (Jennifer O Sullivan Coffey – YEI Programme) and also had access to a laptop to help further his studies with NEWKD Laptop Loan Scheme initiated by Rita Griffin. Tom's commitment to attending the activation meetings, updating his CV and LinkedIn, and participating in the relevant training programs shows how a proactive approach to his career development returned him rewards. Tom gained full-time employment with a local engineering company in January 2025, showing that working with all the relevant programmes available within NEWKD can make a difference. It's clear that the combination of his educational background in Manufacturing & Mechanical Engineering, the hands-on support from his Employment Officer, and the programs he accessed, played a big role in his success. It's also inspiring that he was able to put everything he learned into action and secure a job in the field that aligns with his qualifications. Tom has made an impressive transition from being unemployed for the last seven years to securing full-time employment in a relatively short period of time, thanks to the help of KLAES and the many elements of NEWKD current supports. Wishing Tom every success with his future.

Supports for Integration Through Employment: In my role with NEWKD I provide help with CV preparation, employment and training supports / advice, and information. I work with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, but also with the Irish community. In any given day I could help prepare a CV or a cover letter, talk to someone about possible training or courses in Kerry College, or help a person filling out forms. When I cannot help someone directly, I try to put them in contact with the right support. Some of my clients have been with me for quite a while now, and I have seen how they have progressed in our community and built a life for themselves. I meet people by appointment but because some people find it difficult to get to Tralee I also link in with people by WhatsApp, email and even Zoom. I can be contacted by WhatsApp or message on 0874738499 and am available Monday, Tuesday and half-day Wednesday.

Pat O Donovan.

Men's Sheds: NEWKD supports a number of men's sheds in Asdee, Ballyduff, Ballyheigue, Ballybunion, Tralee, Listowel and Dingle. These are part of the Irish Men's Shed Association, a national organisation supporting over 450 sheds. No two sheds are the same. In fact you don't even need a physical shed. Some operate as choirs, walking groups, cycling groups, gardening groups and so on. Kerry sheds tend to focus on woodwork and gardening, with an ever-increasing effort on environmental initiatives: some make bird, bee, bat and owl boxes to support community efforts, with others involved in the creation and development of biodiversity gardens and allotments. The main focus of sheds is to support men to support each other, and the most important item in any shed is a kettle! All are welcome and the social side – chats, card games, days out, etc. - is the most important aspect of shed life. As part of the national commitment to the sheds each county has a designated peer support member, who is the main contact with the national organisation. Network meetings are organised 3 or 4 times a year in our area where local sheds meet, share ideas, look at funding opportunities and other matters. Over the years these meetings have resulted in initiatives and training being rolled out, including in physical and mental health, cancer screenings and digital technology. Members often comment that they would not have availed of these without the confidence and the solidarity of their local shed. All are welcome, there is a role and a place for all that wish to participate. Sheds are always looking for new members and a warm welcome is guaranteed. We would love to see new sheds and new members.

Home Visitation Service: NEWKD has been operating its Home Visitation Service in North Kerry since 2018. This innovative project was the brainchild of Anita Bodenham and Geraldine Kelly, Rural Social Scheme (RSS) Supervisors, and helps isolated and vulnerable older persons stay connected socially within their community through weekly social visits. It is reliant on RSS participants and community volunteers, and all involved adhere to strict practices and policies in engaging with the older person. The Home Visitation Service would not be possible without:



Diana, Geraldine, Ed & Anita at HSE Community Works Department 50-year celebrations, on receiving a certificate on behalf of our Home Visitation Service.

- ✓ RSS participants, who have been immense from the very beginning of this initiative and work tirelessly;
- ✓ Continued commitment and support from HSE's Cork-Kerry Community Healthcare Team and PHN's; and
- ✓ Community volunteers who are all vital to the continued success of the Home Visitation service.

NEWKD works closely with the community and runs other complimentary projects such as Home Maintenance Service, Meals

on Wheels and Senior Alert Scheme. We aim to strengthen links between service users and services available, including HSE (PHN's / Community Healthcare Team), Meals on Wheels, Local Link, An Garda Síochána and other local and county wide services. RSS participants and Volunteers call on service users once a week at an agreed time to chat with and offer companionship and a listening ear. Our team are not allowed to do cooking, cleaning or attend to medical needs, etc. They are there to support and link older people with services that exist in their community, keep a gentle eye on them and make sure they know that someone cares.

Board Of directors of NEWKD



Front: Claire McAuliffe, Breda Keane, Pat O'Shea, Denis Griffin, Sean Lyons;
Back: Eamonn O'Reilly, Noel Lynch, Una Moynihan, Angie Bailey, David Diggins, Jackie Kissane, Niamh Kelly.
Other Directors: Kevin Fay, Suzanne Griffin, Kenny Jones, Gearoid O'Shea, Liam Quinlan, Michael Leane, Hilary Tobin.