

NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



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. This is a social and informal group where you can work on your own or new projects in the company of other crafters.

Over the past three months, our 9 groups have been incredibly creative, productive, and wonderfully busy, exploring an amazing variety of crafts and creative projects.

During this time, members have tried their hands at a wide range of activities, including diamond painting, bracelet making, acrylic painting, Aran knitting, glasses holder making, suncatcher making, pinecone crafts, decorative painting, spring flower book decorating, book folding, wire wrapping, clay crafts, embroidery, knitting, crochet, cardboard weaving, key charm making, canvas bag painting, macramé, slate tile painting, decoupage, brooch making, pipe cleaner flower making, sewing, felting, cross stitch, patchwork, bag decorating, stained glass art, gnome making, and Valentine's Day crafts. Each group has brought its own ideas, talents, and creative energy, and it has been wonderful to see so many different skills being shared and learned along the way. Every project reflects the creativity and dedication of the people behind it.

What makes these groups so special is not just the crafts themselves, but the community, encouragement, and joy that come with creating together. Members support one another, share ideas, and celebrate each finished piece – whether it's a first attempt or a beautifully perfected skill.

The creativity, skill, and enthusiasm shown across all nine groups has truly been inspiring. Well done to everyone involved – and thank you for making these groups such vibrant, welcoming, and creative spaces.



WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?

Contact Kristine on 086 6602147
or Dee on 087 6356353



OUR POSITIVE IMPACT IN COMMUNITY

Many of the NEWKD Craft Circle groups continue to go beyond simply creating – they are also giving, sharing, and contributing to their local communities in meaningful ways.

Through their creativity and generosity, members regularly make items for local charities, community projects, and people in need, showing that crafting can have a positive impact far beyond the craft table. Whether it's handmade pieces, collaborative projects, or contributions to local initiatives, these groups continue to demonstrate the powerful connection between creativity, kindness, and community spirit.

It is truly inspiring to see how the work of the groups not only brings people together, but also helps support and uplift others in their communities.



A beautiful collection of handmade blankets has been created by members of the Tralee Craft Circle, Tralee Shanakill Craft Circle, Fenit Group, Ballyheigue Craft Circle, and others, which will be donated to Bon Secours Hospital for patients receiving end-of-life care. These blankets are made with great care and compassion, offering warmth and comfort during difficult moments.

Some people made individual squares for the blankets and we must acknowledge Esther who did a huge job of sewing them together into beautiful blankets.



Members across the groups have also been making little hearts, while others have contributed monetary donations and handmade crafts to support a fundraiser for Ukrainian children in need.

Support has also been shown through participation and donations to Relay for Life, helping to raise awareness and funds for an important cause.

Lyreacompane Craft Circle made St Brigid's crosses and sold them in local shop, raising and donating 230 euro towards Relay for life.

In addition, members have lovingly created tiny hats for premature babies, providing something small but very meaningful for the most vulnerable newborns and their families.

These projects show how crafting can go far beyond creativity – it becomes an act of kindness, generosity, and community care. The dedication and compassion shown by members across the groups is truly inspiring.



CELEBRATING 3 YEARS OF CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY

A few weeks ago we gathered at the Kerry Women's Centre for a very special evening – Together She Creates – celebrating the NEWKD Craft Circle Tralee group's 3rd anniversary, alongside with the wonderful Book Club and Creative Writing Group from the Kerry Women's Centre.

Looking back on that evening now, I still feel so grateful for how everything came together. A heartfelt thank you to Mary, Esther, Luella, Dee, and everyone who worked behind the scenes to help make the event possible. Your support, time, and energy truly made the night what it was. It was such a warm and special gathering – an evening of creativity, connection, and bringing different groups together. That was always the goal: to create connections between people. If even one new friendship began, one idea was sparked, or someone decided to join another group because of that evening, then it was absolutely worth it.

Everyone who spoke shared something meaningful, and each contribution added to the spirit of the night. The laughter, the warmth, and the atmosphere in the room were simply beautiful alongside a fantastic exhibition of crafts. Thanks a million to Helen for creating a lovely poem about NEWKD Craft Circle.

NEWKD Craft Circle means so much to me because it's about so much more than glue sticks and glitter. It's about connection. It's about laughing together over slightly crooked projects, sharing ideas, encouraging each other, and turning simple materials into something meaningful. It's a space where creativity isn't judged – it's celebrated.

Crafting reminds me that beautiful things take patience, that mistakes can sometimes turn into masterpieces, and that a little imagination can go a very long way.

Crafts also have a special way of bringing people together from every corner of the world. Creativity speaks a universal language – through colours, shapes, patterns, textures, and handmade details that can communicate feelings and ideas even without words.

A very special thank you again to everyone who helped organise the evening, everyone who spoke, and everyone who came along and made it such a memorable night.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Kristine



LYREACROMPANE CRAFT CIRCLE

Lyreacrompane Craft Circle started in January 2025 and absolute blessing out in the bog. The past year has been full of wonderful crafts that the ladies in Lyre have taken on with gusto usually stretching them over 4 or 5 weeks and coming up with better and more imaginative ways to create. The ladies in Lyreacrompane and neighbouring Rathea are so inventive and talented and are consistently thinking of new and wonderful crafts for us to try. This past year had been one of the best for all of us and we are looking forward to what 2026 will bring this includes being an active part of the Relay For Life which has been brought to Kerry by our own Mary Leane. Mary opens the community centre for us every week and brings all manner of crafty bits and pieces in her "Mary Poppins Bag" whatever you need she usually has it in there! We are very much looking forward to getting a team together from all the Craft Circle groups to support her and the Relay For Life .



Relay for Life Kerry
 5th- 6th SEPTEMBER
 Lyreacrompane Resource Centre - V31DA36
 1pm - 1pm



Relay For Life, the world's largest cancer fundraising initiative, is coming to Kerry and we want you to be a part of it!

You can register to take part as a Team, join the Survivor experience, participate in the Candle of Hope remembrance ceremony or just come along to enjoy the festivities on the day. There is something for all the family to enjoy.

What is Relay For Life?
 It's a 24-hour event that sees local communities coming together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and stand shoulder to shoulder with those facing cancer.

The funds raised at Relay For Life enable the Irish Cancer Society to provide free, vital support services to people affected by cancer across Ireland and to fund groundbreaking cancer research.

Get Involved:
www.relayforlife.ie/event/kerry
 Contact the RFL Kerry Committee:
 Email: RFLylyreacrompane@gmail.com
 Instagram: [relayforlifekerry](https://www.instagram.com/relayforlifekerry)
 Facebook Relay for Life Kerry



Irish Cancer Society **RELAY FOR LIFE**
 KERRY Lyreacrompane



BALLYDUFF CRAFT CIRCLE

So far this year Ballyduff group has done diamond painting bookmarks, painting on canvas, pine cone crafts, decorating pots and canvas bags, and book folding. Emily (a group member) showed us how to make St. Brigid's crosses and we did various crafts for Valentines Day. We are currently working on St. Patrick's Day crafts.



VARIETY OF OUR TALENTS

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members



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LISTOWEL CRAFT CIRCLE

Ladies in this group have been busy working on charity project of knitting little hearts for patients. For the past 3 months they have worked on painting on slate tiles, decoupage, knitting, crochet, painting jars, book folding and decorating.

BALLYHEIGUE CRAFT CIRCLE

This year in Ballyheigue we've been busy learning new skills and revisiting some old favourites. We kicked off the year making Tree of Life followed by crafting felt love hearts and charming heart paper wreaths from pre loved books all perfect for valentine's day. Next we did painting, decoupage and we explored some macrame, creating some beautiful leaves and feathers. Now we are getting ready to dive into some spring themed crafts.



BALLYBUNION CRAFT CIRCLE

Ladies in this group have been busy working on knitting, crochet, diamond art, colouring and card making. They are also making little hearts.



DINGLE CRAFT CIRCLE

Connected by Thread: A Celebration of Craft and Community is taking place on Thursday, 30 April from 2pm–5pm and Friday, 1st May from 10am–5pm at Temperance Hall, Main Street, Dingle (V92 DV74), Connected by Thread: A Celebration of Craft and Community is an exhibition celebrating creativity, collaboration, and community connection as part of the vibrant Féile na Bealtaine Festival.

This collaborative project brings together the NEWKD Dingle Craft Circle and the West Kerry / Corca Dhuibhne Active Retirement Association, supported through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

The exhibition focuses on sharing skills, working together, and encouraging integration through a cross generational creative process. Members of both groups will come together to create a community quilt, weaving together local folklore, personal memories, and shared creativity. Each stitched section will reflect the richness that emerges when generations and communities, both long-established and newly arrived connect and learn from one another.

Alongside the making of the quilt, visitors can enjoy a display of locally crafted quilts and textiles, ranging from traditional to contemporary styles. Interactive demonstrations of sewing, crochet, knitting, and spinning will take place throughout the exhibition, highlighting how craft can bring people together and support wellbeing, learning, and friendship across generations.

The project celebrates the value of working with our hands and the joy that grows when people create together, reflecting the spirit of Féile na Bealtaine. Everyone is welcome to drop in and experience the creativity and connection that crafting can inspire in the community.



CASTLEISLAND CRAFT CIRCLE

Castleisland Craft Club is going from strength to strength. Our main interest is in knitting and crochet with a small cohort exploring different crafts like quilling, diamond painting and card making. Everyone loves the social aspect of the group and the informal chats over a good cuppa. Our group have recently supported two charity events knitting hearts for end of life patients and making crafts for a local Craft Fair for Zambia so well done everyone



TRALEE SHANAKILL CRAFT CIRCLE

In a quiet corner of the Shanakill Family Resource Centre a small group gathers every Thursday evening 7.00pm to 9.00pm for the 2nd craft circle in Tralee the first one takes place on a Monday evening 7.00pm to 9.00pm in Aras An Phobail. The group began as just a few people who enjoyed crafting together, but over time it has grown into a welcoming circle of individuals who share a love of making things by hand.

The craft circle brings together people of different ages and skill levels. Some members prefer traditional crafts such as knitting, crochet, and embroidery, while others experiment with canvas crafts, acrylic painting, or beading and jewellery making. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly, with plenty of conversation, laughter, and cups of tea as everyone works on their projects.

One of the group's favourite activities is their "show and tell" session at the start of each meeting. Members bring the pieces they have been working on during the week, whether it's a half-finished scarf, a handmade greeting card, or a newly painted bookmark. It's a chance to share ideas, ask for advice, and celebrate each other's progress.

The circle also organises themed evenings. Some of the things we have crafted are quite unusual recently we finished a project. It was a wooden embroidery circle and we put chicken wire in it and then decorated it with beads. This was a very successful project with lots of laughs. We also have done some painting and decorating on wooden hearts. These are just a few examples of the kind of crafts we do.

Beyond the crafts themselves, the circle has become an important social space. New members are always welcomed warmly, and experienced crafters are happy to teach beginners a new stitch or technique. For many people in the group, the weekly gathering is as much about friendship and relaxation as it is about creativity.

What began as a simple hobby group has grown into a small but lively community where creativity, patience, and companionship come together—one handmade project at a time.



POEM BY GROUP MEMBER – HELEN

Croilar Na Mistealach is where NEWKD Craft Circle began

Every Monday night, 7-9pm it is ran

With Kristine at the helm & Rebecca too

Both are committed to welcome both me & you

Marie & myself are members from the start

We look forward to our group & to taking a part

Nightly advice & support & laughs & cheer

They encourage us in our projects

There's themed nights, re origami, card making,

Jewellery, fairy houses, book folding & button art

Recently some turned out beautiful valentine hearts

Teas & snacks at the ready, treats & surprise galore

Meals out, fairs, markets, open days & more

Both learning & socialising is our goal

Trips to Ballybunion, Ballyduff & Dingle was good for our soul

Mixing with other groups, showcasing our talent, projects & knits

Even Santa Claus paid us a visit with beautiful hand sewn tote bags to gift

Coming together just like the crafts, benefits us in more ways than one

Learning from each other, brainstorming with finishing techniques

To ensure our crafts are done

We also belong to a whatsapp group to ensure we are kept up to date

Also to let the group know if we are running late

Kristine & Rebecca we value both more than you know

And on behalf of the group I wish to thank you both for sure



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Join and follow our NEWKD Craft Circle Facebook page! Stay up to date with latest group activities, and all the inspiring things happening across our 9 Craft Circles. Just click the link below to join our growing creative community!



[https://
www.facebook.com
/newkdcraftcircle](https://www.facebook.com/newkdcraftcircle)

We welcome and are very grateful for any art & craft material or tool donations to any of our groups. If you would like to support us, please contact us. We would like to acknowledge all kind people who have already given, gifted and donated materials to our groups.

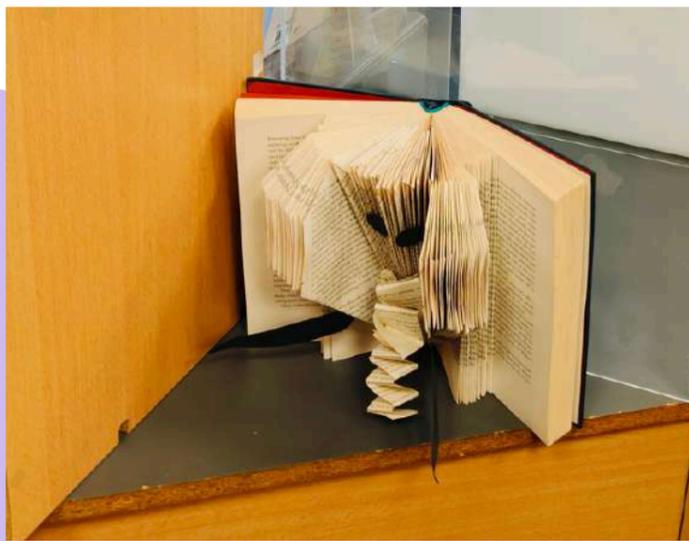


*Thank
You*

This publication is put together by Kristine Sasko, NEWKD Craft Circle Founder & Facilitator-
kristinesasko@newkd.ie

OUR POSITIVE IMPACT IN COMMUNITY

TOTALLY NEW, UNEXPECTED, AND WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP HAS STARTED BETWEEN NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE TRALEE GROUP AND O'MAHONY'S BOOKSELLERS. OUR BOOK ART IS DISPLAYED IN THEIR SHOP[WINDOWS AND WILL BE MORE MADE IN FUTURE AND WE ARE VERY GREATEFUL FOR THE AMAZING DONATION OF PENCIL SET THAT WE RECIEVED FORM THEM RECENTLY.



IF ANY LOCAL BUSINESS, COMMUNITY GROUP, OR ORGANISATION WOULD LIKE TO LINK WITH US, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

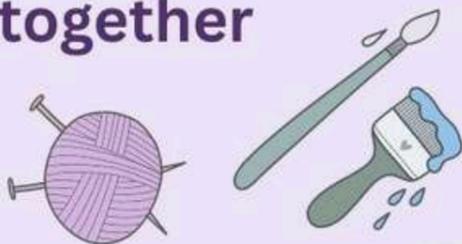




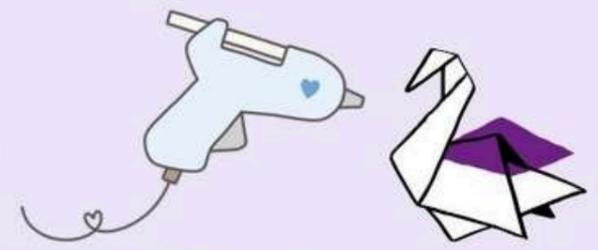
NEWKD Craft Circle

Friendly, relaxed and creative social space
in 9 locations across North Kerry!

- Exchange ideas & inspiration
- Try new techniques & materials
- Be part of a supportive community
- Discover hidden talents
- Share laughter and stories
- Celebrate achievements together
- 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



Weekly Groups



Tralee – Mondays, 7-9pm
Áras an Phobail, Cross Street,
Dean's Lane, V92 CRW8

Fully Booked

Dingle – Wednesdays, 7-9pm
Dingle, V92 VW74

Fully Booked

Ballyduff – Mondays, 7-9pm
Benmore, Ballyduff, V92 A2VC

Ballybunion – Thursdays, 10am-12noon
Ballybunion Community Centre, V31 TV25

Castleisland - Mondays, 7-9pm
Family Resource Centre, 33A Church
Street, V92VCA3

Tralee - Shanakill - Thursdays, 7-9pm
Shanakill Family Resource Centre,
Monavalley, V92 PF30

Ballyheigue – Tuesdays, 7-9pm
Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre,
Sraid Thaidhg, V92 N22

Lyreacrompane – Thursdays, 7-9pm
Lyreacrompane Resource Centre,
V31 DA36

Listowel – Wednesdays, 7-9pm
NEWKD Office, 20 W. Street,
V31 TR68

Fully Booked

For more info, contact
Dee – 087 635 6353
Kristine – 086 660 2147