



NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



Community is where individual strengths become collective power.

NEWKD Craft Circle is a welcoming, safe 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 and many more. 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. Kristine



WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?

**Contact Kristine on 086 6602147
or Dee on 087 6356353**



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY

BALLYDUFF CRAFT CIRCLE

3 C'S - COMMUNITY CRAFTS, CHARITY COLLECTIONS AND COMMUNION CAKE

We've had a wonderfully busy and creative time in the last few months! We decorated plant pots and canvas bags, created St. Patrick's Day crafts (including felt shamrocks and lollipop stick leprechauns), and made beautiful Easter pieces such as sock bunnies, air-dry clay bunting, and book page butterflies.

We were then invited to take part in creating decorations for the Ballyduff Summer festival, and we spent several weeks designing and making colourful bunting and vibrant tissue paper pom-poms. There was a great atmosphere and lots of laughs as we all worked together towards our goal. The village looked fabulous. A huge thank you to all the 5 Craft Circle groups who contributed and helped out too—there was fantastic teamwork throughout!

Alongside this community project, we also worked hard to raise funds for Irish Guide Dogs. Our craft and bake sale at the Ballyduff Summer Festival was a great success, raising over €400 and helping us surpass our overall target of €1,000.

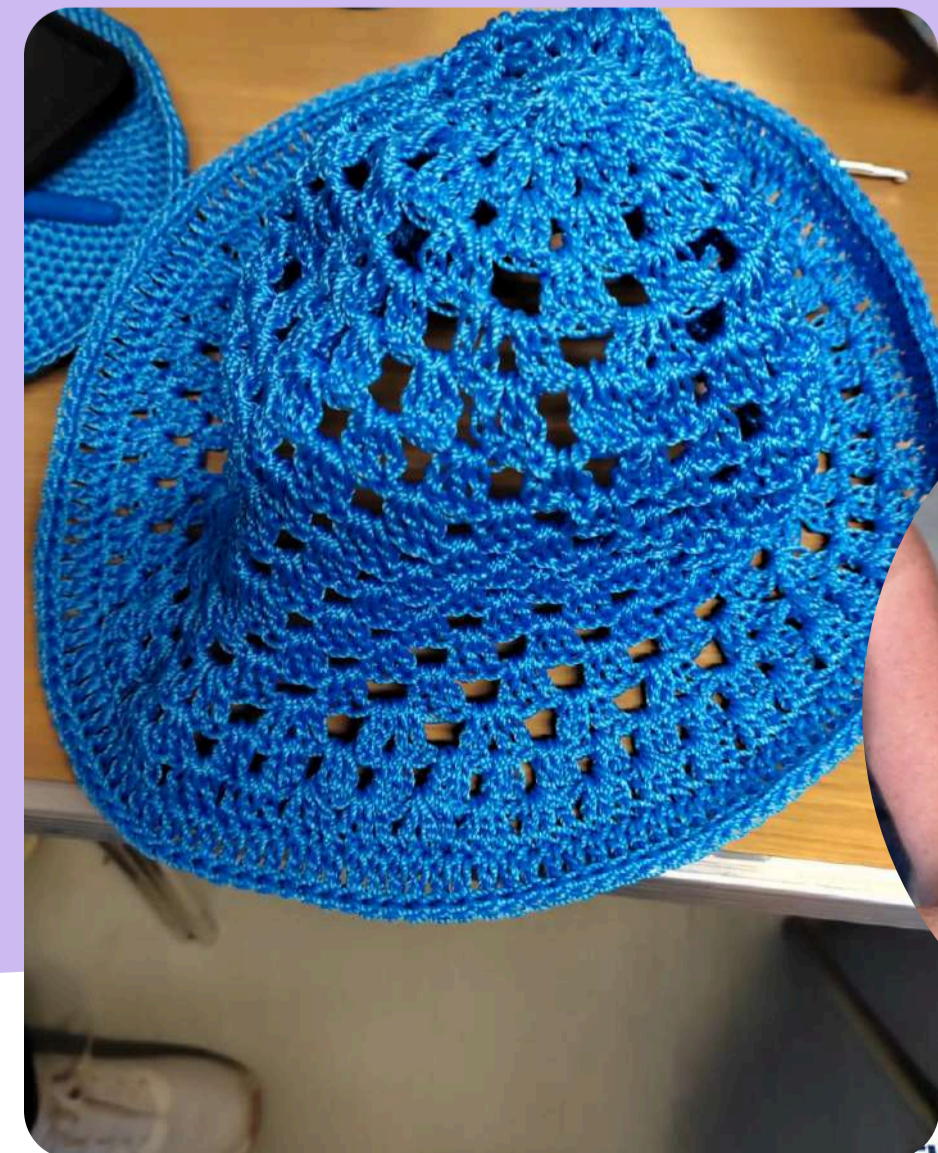
As a result of our efforts, we will now receive a life-size model guide dog to decorate as a group. It will be one of 50 sculptures displayed across Cork this August, celebrating the charity's 50th anniversary—an exciting achievement for everyone involved!

Early this month we celebrated Ballyduff Group's 2nd birthday! Our guest of honour was the gorgeous Ursa- an ambassador dog for Irish Guide Dogs. A huge thanks to Anne, Joe and Marie for bringing her in and answering all our questions. We had great fun drawing her during the evening.



VARIETY OF OUR TALENTS

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members



VARIETY OF OUR TALENTS

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY

STITCH & SCREEN

FIRST TIME IN KERRY



There was a wonderful atmosphere of creativity, community, and relaxation at Siamsa Tíre on one Saturday evening in May for Kerry's very first Stitch & Screen event.

Organised by the NEWKD Craft Circle in partnership with Siamsa Tíre, the event welcomed more than 60 crafters for a unique evening that brought together film and fibre arts. Participants enjoyed a screening of the beloved classic *Pretty Woman* while working on a wide variety of projects, including crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, punch needle, embroidery, and other needlecrafts.

The event created a warm and welcoming space where people could relax, chat, share ideas, and enjoy crafting together in a social setting. It was a fantastic celebration of creativity and connection, with attendees travelling from across Kerry and beyond to take part in this new community initiative.

Many participants commented on how enjoyable it was to combine crafting with cinema in such a comfortable and inspiring venue. The opportunity to meet fellow crafters, exchange tips and ideas, and work on projects in a relaxed environment made for a truly memorable evening.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff at Siamsa Tíre, and especially to Justin, for working with us to help make the event such a success and for the wonderful hospitality shown throughout the evening. Their support, enthusiasm, and commitment were greatly appreciated by everyone involved.

Following the overwhelmingly positive response to this first event, we are already looking forward to the next Stitch & Screen evening, which is planned for September. More details will be announced soon, and we cannot wait to welcome both returning and new crafters for another enjoyable night of stitching, cinema, and community.





Stitch & Screen at Siamsa Tire

EUROPEAN WOOL EXPERIENCE



There was a great excitement at Meadowlands Hotel as the European Wool Experience was held on Saturday 28th March.

The displays, crafts, the colours were just stunning, this event welcomed a wonderful gathering of exhibitors, makers, researchers and designers from Ireland and more than 10 other European countries.

The European Wool Experience was a free, family-friendly public event celebrating Ireland's hosting of European Wool Day 2026. It was a vibrant day of creativity, culture and discovery, with plenty to see, enjoy and explore for visitors of all ages.

It was lovely to meet and see many familiar people at this event and to create more new connections and share ideas



LYREACROMPANE CRAFT CIRCLE

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: RFLlyreacrompane@gmail.com

Instagram : [relayforlifekerry](https://www.instagram.com/relayforlifekerry)

Facebook Relay for Life Kerry

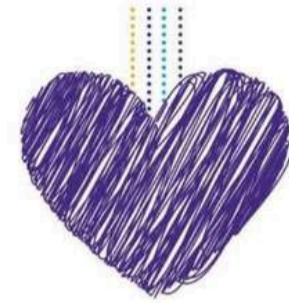


KERRY
Lyreacrompane



KERRY

Lyreacrompane



The Survivors' Lap & Experience

We invite all of our Survivors who have lived or are living with cancer for a special lap. An emotional reminder that there is hope.

Lyreacrompane Craft Circle is gearing up for the Relay for Life event on the 5th and 6th September. Our own Mary Leane has been key in bringing this to Kerry. If you would like to join our team the Crafty Ladies or buy and decorate a Candle Bag for the Candle of Hope ceremony please let us know. This is the first time the Relay for Life has happened in Kerry and we at Lyreacrompane Craft Circle are delighted to be part of it. So far we have raised 380 euro for Irish Cancer Society.

Candle of Hope Ceremony

Saturday 5th September at 8pm

Lyreacrompane Resource Centre

At dusk, hundreds of personalised candle bags will light up the night sky in a moving tribute to those we have loved and lost to cancer.

We will also honour survivors, carers and those currently going through treatment.



CANDLE BAGS SALES

You can buy bag(s) online or at local upcoming events. Candle Bags cost €5 with all proceeds going to the Irish Cancer Society.



PERSONALISE & DECORATE

You can buy your bag online and add a personal message at checkout. You can also decorate your own bag(s) at local events throughout the Summer.



Ready to get involved?
Scan the QR code or visit

www.relayforlife.ie/event/kerry

Scan to buy candle bags

Contact the RFL Kerry Committee:

RFLlyreacrompane@gmail.com

[@relayforlifekerry](https://www.instagram.com/relayforlifekerry)

Relay for Life Kerry

087-4457030



What to expect at Relay

Team Participation

Participants team up and take it in turns to walk through the day and night, with someone always on the move during the 24-hour period. Cancer never sleeps so for one night, neither do we!

The Survivors Experience

A key feature of every Relay For Life is the survivors' lap, where cancer survivors who have lived or are living with cancer are invited to open the event with a special celebratory lap of their local Relay track. Survivors will also enjoy a special lunch at the event.

Candle of Hope Ceremony

A moving Candle of Hope ceremony is one of the main highlights of Relay For Life. Thousands of candle bags that have been personalised with messages of hope and remembrance are lit in celebration of cancer survivorship and to honour loved ones lost to cancer.

Fun For All

The uplifting Relay For Life event also features entertainment and fun for all the family.



Ready to get involved?

Scan the QR code or visit
www.relayforlife.ie/event/kerry



Contact the RFL Kerry Committee:
Email: RFLlyreacrompane@gmail.com
Instagram : [relayforlifekerry](https://www.instagram.com/relayforlifekerry)
Facebook Relay for Life Kerry
Tel: 087-6638829



KERRY
Lyreacrompane



LISTOWEL CRAFT CIRCLE

Ladies in this group have been busy working on charity project of knitting little hearts for patients, making bunting for festival decorations and also a variety of crafts - clay crafts, slate tile painting, making bowls from old magazines/brochures and many more crafts.

BALLYHEIGUE CRAFT CIRCLE

This year in Ballyheigue we've been busy learning new skills and revisiting some old favourites - painted and decoupaged candles, textured stencilled designs on canvas, glue art designs, Easter crafts and many more. This group also participated in the collective community project by making festival decorations.

BALLYBUNION CRAFT CIRCLE

The Ballybunion Craft Circle continues to bring together people from different nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds through creativity, friendship, and community spirit. Over the past few months, our members have enjoyed a variety of creative activities while supporting one another and building lasting friendships. One of our proudest achievements was taking part in the Knitted Hearts Initiative for the End of Life Care Community. With love and care, members of the group knitted more than 50 hearts, which were donated to provide comfort to people and families receiving end-of-life care. It was a meaningful project that reminded us how small handmade gifts can make a big difference. We are now preparing for Culture Night, where we will proudly display a collection of paintings, crafts, and handmade creations produced by members of the group. The exhibition will celebrate not only creativity and talent but also the rich diversity that makes our community so special. Our Craft Circle is about much more than arts and crafts. Each week, people come together to share ideas, stories, laughter, and sometimes even songs. New friendships are formed, confidence grows, and connections continue beyond our weekly meetings. Every session brings an opportunity to learn something new, create something meaningful, and strengthen the sense of belonging within our community. We are grateful to everyone who takes part and helps make the Ballybunion Craft Circle a welcoming space where creativity, kindness, and friendship continue to flourish. Tetiana Popova Integration Support Worker



DINGLE CRAFT CIRCLE

Connected by Thread: A Celebration of Craft and Community took place in April. Connected by Thread: A Celebration of Craft and Community was an exhibition celebrating creativity, collaboration, and community connection as part of the vibrant Féile na Bealtaine Festival. This collaborative project brought 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 focused on sharing skills, working together, and encouraging integration through a cross-generational creative process. Members of both groups came together to create a community quilt.



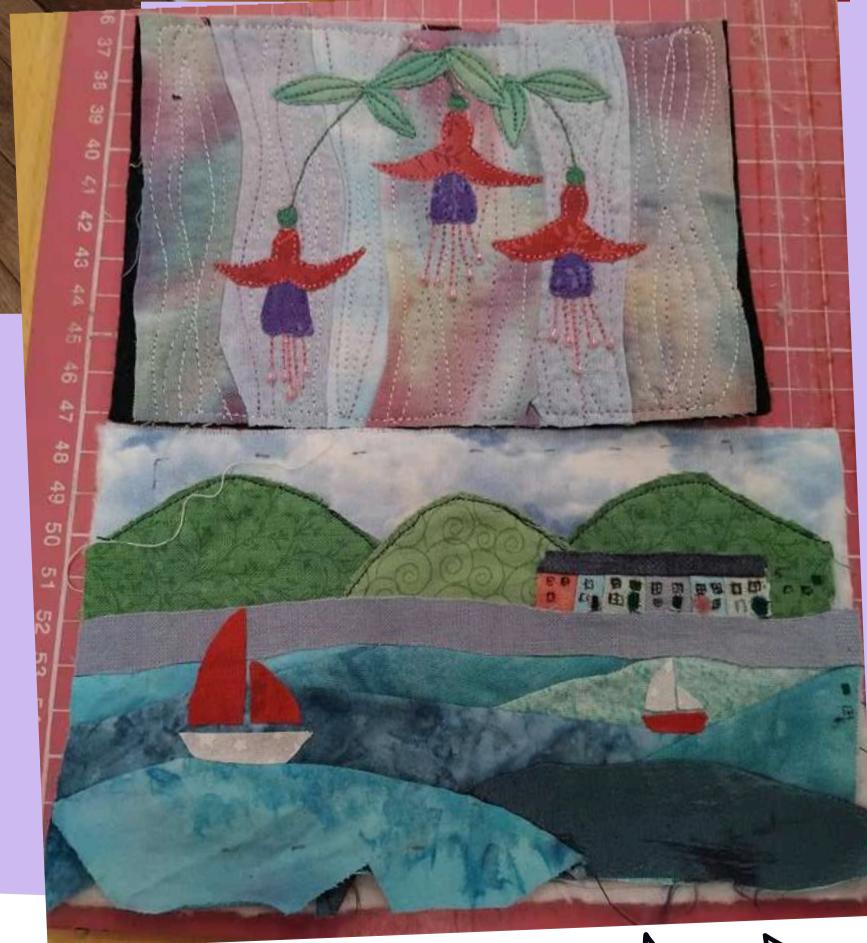
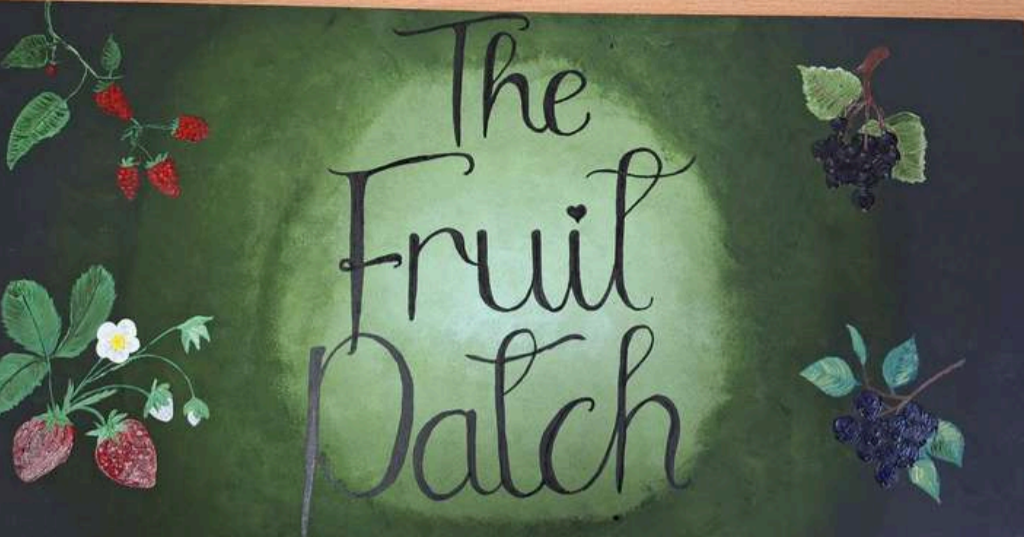
VARIETY OF OUR TALENTS

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members



VARIETY OF OUR TALENTS

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members



TRALEE SHANAKILL CRAFT CIRCLE

We have a lovely small group of people who come together to craft every Thursday evening. This is so much more than a craft group we share each other's lives in these two hours every week with chats and a cup of tea as well as amazing crafts to be created. We have many skilled crafters in our group all bringing different skill sets, for example, we have some gifted crocheters, knitters, beadwork artist, painters just to name a few. Many of the individuals in our group make things that are donated for charity projects - like hats for premature babies, blankets for end of life patients and more. We are blessed with the amount of talent in our craft group and the generosity and kindness each individual possesses in our group .



CASTLEISLAND CRAFT CIRCLE

Castleisland Craft Circle were delighted to support our own member, Sr. Mary Lucey with donated crafts for her craft sale in support of the Presentation missions in Zambia where Sr. Mary lived and worked for over 30 years. She continues to support the mission through her annual craft sales.

We also went to Pretty Woman in Siamsa Tíre in May which was a fabulous night out and we recently supported the Knit in Public Day during Féile na mBláth.

We continued to enjoy knitting, crochet, quilling, cross stitch, embroidery and are looking forward to starting our Craft Circle again in September.



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY

WORLDWIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY 2026

For the third year running, our group was delighted to take part in Worldwide Knit in Public Day as part of The Park Festival in Tralee Town Park.

It was a fantastic day celebrating creativity, community, and the joy of making, as knitters, crocheters, crafters, curious visitors, friends, and families came together to share skills, ideas, and a love of fibre crafts. The atmosphere throughout the day was warm, welcoming, and full of conversation, laughter, and inspiration.

A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by our stand. Whether you knitted a few rows, learned a new skill, admired the beautiful handmade work on display, or simply stopped for a chat, your presence helped make the event such a success.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Maria's Wool Shop for their generous donation of wool and knitting needles, and to our group members for their donations of wool, materials, and supplies. Thank you also to everyone who shared their skills, knowledge, and creative ideas with others throughout the day.

We are especially grateful to Brian and the team at The Park Festival, along with Kerry County Council, for inviting us to be part of this wonderful community event and for their support and hospitality.

Worldwide Knit in Public Day is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the benefits of crafting, bring people together, and encourage others to discover the enjoyment and wellbeing that knitting, crochet, and other fibre crafts can bring.

Thank you to everyone who supported this worldwide celebration of fibre crafts and helped create such a friendly, inclusive, and inspiring atmosphere in the heart of our community.

We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did, and we look forward to seeing you again at future knitting and crafting gatherings.



VARIETY OF OUR TALENTS

All artwork and crafts made by
NEWKD Craft Circle group members



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY

WINDOW DECORATIONS IN O'MAHONY'S BOOKSELLERS TRALEE

Tralee Craft Circle group continues its fantastic friendship with O'Mahony's Booksellers Tralee by creating many various window decorations for Easter, St Patrick's Day, Bealtaine Festival, Féile na mBláth Festival, Bloomsday and Father's Day so far. Group members made many unique book folding art, festive nests, crocheted flowers and many more themed decorations. The brand-new LED lighting in the shop is definitely giving a splendid window display and crafts look lovely under the new night lights.



We are open to work together with other organisations, shops, communities and events. For info contact Kristine 086 6602147



HAPPY - CRAFTY MOMENTS



Ballyheigue Craft Circle group celebrated their first year together last night with homemade treats in May



Guest of honour, the gorgeous Ursa - an ambassador dog for Irish Guide Dogs visiting Ballyduff Craft Circle.



Tralee Craft Circle creatively wrapping spot prizes for Kerry Women's Centre



Congratulations to Laima from Tralee Craft Circle on winning first prize in Toy category competition at Kingdom County Show with her two Memory Teddies. Well done 😊



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY



♥ A warm hug from the community ♥

The NEWKD Craft Circles continue to share kindness through creativity, by making a second donation of 21 beautifully handmade knitted and crocheted blankets. These were gratefully received by Palliative Care Nurse Specialist Majella O'Sullivan at Bon Secours Hospital Tralee, bringing the total number of donated blankets to an incredible 36 so far. These blankets are gifted to end-of-life patients, offering comfort, warmth, and a sense of care during the most sensitive moments. Each piece represents not just skill, but compassion.

This inspiring effort is the result of collaboration across several local groups, including the Tralee Craft Circle, Shanakill Craft Circle, Ballyheigue Craft Circle, and Fenit Craft Group. Together, members created vibrant, one-of-a-kind blankets. A special green and blue community blanket was lovingly crafted from individual squares made by different participants and then carefully assembled into finished pieces by Esther.

Members of NEWKD Craft Circle have shown exceptional generosity over the past three years, dedicating their time and talents to support many charities and community initiatives. Their continued commitment is making a real difference.

Majella O'Sullivan expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of Bon Secours Hospital for the crafters' phenomenal efforts and kindness.

♥ The group will continue working on the next batch of blankets, and donations of wool are always warmly welcomed. ♥





For more information please contact
0866602147 - Kristine

VACATION MODE: ACTIVATED

Some of our groups are on well deserved
summer break until September -
Castleisland
Listowel
Ballyheigue
Dingle



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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Join and follow our NEWKD Craft Circle Facebook page! Stay up to date with the 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!



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.

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



*Thank
You*