



Community Newsletter

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North East & West Kerry Development

Forbairt Chiarraí Thuaidh Thiar & Thoir

RCN: 20070717

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Welcome to the latest edition of the NEWKD Community Newsletter, where we are pleased to share updates on our work within and alongside our local communities. In this issue, you'll find news on upcoming events, updates on our projects and services, and stories that celebrate the people who make our community such a vibrant and welcoming place. We are delighted to highlight the achievements of local people who have engaged with our services and programmes, demonstrating how community investment and support can make a real difference. Whether you're interested in learning more about our work, attending an upcoming event, or accessing one of our services, we encourage you to get in touch. Thank you for your continued support and interest in our work. You can contact us by phone, email, or by visiting one of our offices - we look forward to hearing from you.

Pat O'Shea, Chairperson

Eamonn O'Reilly, CEO

Walks Scheme

NEWKD administers the Walks Scheme on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

The Scheme aims to enhance and maintain key walking trails, including National Waymarked Ways, Looped Walking Routes, and Heritage Routes, by providing support to landholders whose lands these trails traverse.

The Walks Scheme is open to private landowners and farmers with commonage rights. Participants are paid to carry out an agreed maintenance plan for approved walking routes crossing their lands, under contracts of up to five years.

NEWKD has currently five walks approved for the walks scheme:

- Dingle Way;
- North Kerry Way;
- Glanageenty Loops;
- Siúlóid na Cille;
- Sauce Creek / An Sás.



Two of these trails are fully on the Walks Scheme, while the remaining routes are currently being brought into the Scheme.

We are now accepting applications from landowners along the Dingle Way, North Kerry Way, and Sauce Creek. An Expression of Interest form can be downloaded from the NEWKD website or obtained directly from the Rural Recreation Officer, Joanna Jankowska.

Joanna can be contacted on 087 056 2231 or by email at joannajankowska@newkd.ie



NEWKD Craft Circle

The NEWKD Craft Circles continue to spread kindness through creativity, recently marking a heartfelt milestone with their 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.

These blankets are gifted to end-of-life patients, offering warmth, comfort, and a tangible sense of care during life's most sensitive moments. Each piece reflects not only skill and dedication, but deep compassion.



This inspiring initiative is the result of collaboration between 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 particularly special green and blue community blanket was lovingly crafted from individual squares made by participants and thoughtfully assembled into finished pieces by Esther.

Over the past three years, members of the NEWKD Craft Circle have shown remarkable generosity, dedicating their time and talents to support numerous charities and community initiatives. Their continued commitment is making a meaningful and lasting difference.

Senior Alert Scheme - SAS

The Senior Alert Scheme is designed to help older people live independently in their own homes with greater confidence and peace of mind. The scheme provides a personal monitored alarm that can be activated in the event of a fall, illness, or emergency, ensuring that assistance can be summoned quickly when needed. The alarm can be worn as a pendant or wrist device and connects directly to a 24/7 monitoring centre in an emergency.

NewKD is proud to support local older residents in accessing this valuable service. The scheme offers reassurance not only to participants but also to their families and loved ones, knowing that help is available at the touch of a button.

The scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, administered by Pobal, and delivered locally by North East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD). For more information contact 068 23429, 087 357 9515 or info@newkd.ie.

Local impact Statement: *Over the years, the Senior Alert Scheme has provided reassurance to many older residents across our community, helping them maintain their independence while ensuring that support is always close at hand when needed.*

Benefits of Working on Community Employment, Rural Social Scheme, Tus Community Workplacement Programme, etc.:

1. Engage in meaningful community work that makes a real, positive local impact
2. Develop practical skills and experience while contributing to community projects
3. Build confidence and wellbeing through purposeful, structured activity
4. Progress toward employment or education with tailored support and guidance

Team Project: The TEAM Project in Tralee is a Community Employment Scheme supporting individuals in recovery from addiction. Established in 2017, it provides a safe, structured, and supportive environment where participants can rebuild their lives, develop new skills, and work towards a more stable future.

Based in NEWKD, the programme supports up to 18 participants at a time and operates through a collaborative approach with addiction support services. Participants follow personalised development plans and engage in a range of activities, including education and training, work experience, and wellbeing programmes such as fitness, art, horticulture, and personal development.

With ongoing one-to-one support and regular wellness check-ins, the TEAM Project helps individuals build confidence, improve their wellbeing, and progress into employment, further education, or community involvement—supporting lasting recovery and a renewed sense of purpose.



Irish Experience Tours & NEWKD: Thank You to Seanie Power of <https://irishexperiencetours.com/> who, as part of their Social Responsibility approach, is now supporting NEWKD in working with the communities who live in the rural places through which they travel. While these are some of the most beautiful places to visit, they also face real, everyday challenges such as isolation, seasonal work, and pressure on local services. Sean believes tourism should give something back to the places it depends on, so they are partnering with NEWKD to support our role by building in a small, fixed contribution per guest into selected tours. This is passed on regularly to NEWKD, and helps sustain everyday community work across Kerry. Further information on this unique initiative can be found on <https://irishexperiencetours.com/social-responsibility/>

Safe Tractor Driving Skills: This one-day instructor-led course is designed for learners aged 14 to 16 years. It offers practical training focused on the safe and responsible operation of tractors, helping participants build confidence and develop safety conscious driving skills. Participants will receive a training certificate on completion of the course. The cost of the course is €30. This course provides an excellent introduction to tractor safety and is ideal for young people who are beginning to gain experience around farm machinery.

Aim of the course:

- Carry out tractor safety checks
- Set up correct driving position
- Operate trailed machinery safely
- Assess ground and terrain conditions
- Hitch farm machinery to the tractor safely
- Basic first aid training

To secure a place please
contact Mary or Sofina
on 066 7142576 or email
info@newkd.ie

This course is beneficial for young people living or working on farms, those with an interest in agriculture, or anyone looking to develop practical skills while learning the importance of farm safety. By investing in training and education, we can help create safer farms and reduce the risk of accidents for future generations.



Education



Christine "Sally" (Margaret)

Dingle



People



Enterprise



Employment



Environment



Tralee



Community



Castleisland



Listowel

