

NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2026

*We're all connected by the same thing,
a love of making....*



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 friendly, informal social group where you can work on your own projects or try something new in the company of other crafters.

If you love being creative and arty, you will find your people here.

WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?

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

This newsletter is put together by Kristine Sasko

NEWKD Craft Circle Founder & Facilitator, kristinesasko@newkd.ie





Even though many of our groups took a well-deserved summer break to recharge and refresh, so many amazing things have still been achieved and created by our members. We are proud and delighted to celebrate achievements, big and small, and to share these stories with our communities. We hope you enjoy reading about the activities and experiences that have made a positive impact. Alongside the bigger moments worth celebrating, there are countless smaller achievements in every group and by individual members. These include making a first cardigan for a grandchild, learning a completely new craft, sharing skills with fellow members, trying a new craft tool, sharing materials, helping someone with alterations, or simply enjoying a celebratory cake together. These moments and the connections formed each week have immense value in our lives and my life especially.



NEWKD Craft Circle Celebrates Recognition at the Kerry Community Awards 2026

NEWKD Craft Circle was shortlisted as one of three finalists in the Inclusive Community category of the 2026 Kerry Community Awards, alongside Kerry Canoe Club and Listowel Autism Friendly Town. Creativity, connection and community spirit recognised at the Kerry Community Awards, celebrating the positive impact that creativity, friendship and community connection can have on people's lives across Kerry.

The Kerry Community Awards recognise the contribution made by community and voluntary groups throughout the county and celebrate projects that improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental quality of life in local communities.

NEWKD Craft Circle began in Tralee in March 2023, with the aim of creating a friendly and welcoming space where people could come together, be creative, learn from one another and enjoy time away from the pressures of everyday life. Since then, the idea has grown into a network of 10 groups across North Kerry. The groups welcome people with different backgrounds, ages, abilities, experience levels and interests. You do not have to consider yourself an artist or an experienced crafter to take part. Members can simply arrive with an interest in learning, creating, chatting and spending time with others.

The importance of this social connection has become one of the defining features of the NEWKD Craft Circle. Members share skills, encourage each other, celebrate finished projects and often form friendships that extend beyond the weekly meetings. The groups provide an opportunity for people to take time for themselves while also becoming part of something bigger.

NEWKD Craft Circle has also increasingly become part of Kerry's wider cultural and community life. Members have exhibited their work at events including Culture Night and have worked with organisations such as Siamsa Tíre, creating opportunities for people to experience craft in new and exciting ways. In 2026, Craft Circle collaborated with Siamsa Tíre on the Stitch & Screen events, bringing knitters, crocheters, embroiderers and other crafters together for an evening of creativity, social connection and entertainment.

The group also continues to showcase the enormous variety of talent within its membership through exhibitions, craft markets, workshops, community projects and collaborative events.

The recognition at the Kerry Community Awards 2026 is therefore a celebration not simply of crafts, but of the community that has grown around them.



At the centre of NEWKD Craft Circle are the people who attend every week. Every blanket made, friendship formed, technique shared, exhibition created, workshop attended and community project supported contributes to the story of the NEWKD Craft Circle. What began with the simple idea of bringing people together through creativity has developed into a growing community where people can create, connect, learn, contribute and belong. The Kerry Community Awards recognition is therefore something to celebrate together. It belongs to every crafter who brings their project through the door, every volunteer who helps run a group, every person who has encouraged another member to try something new, and every person who has discovered that creativity can be a way of connecting not only with themselves, but with the people around them. NEWKD Craft Circle may be about crafts – but at its heart, it is about people. And that is what makes this recognition in the Kerry Community Awards so special. By Kristine Sasko



We Featured on Radio Kerry and RTE News

As part of the Culture Night events-Arts Alive-at Siamsa Tire we were featured on RTE News - Culture Night segment, full article and video can be seen [here](#) - RTE.

Dee and Kristine had a chat on Radio Kerry about our groups and community involvement.

[You can listen to the interview here.](#)





We had the best time of our lives.... on one September Monday evening.....

Happy memories from our second Stitch 'n' Screen event on Monday evening at Siamsa Tíre that was attended by close to 70 people. We are delighted with such a wonderful community friendship and collaboration with Siamsa Tíre. Get refreshing those loved Mamma Mia lyrics for our next Stitch & Screen event in February, for information follow our Facebook Page.

Kerry Mental Health & Wellbeing Fest 2026

For another year some of our groups took part in the Kerry Mental Health & Wellbeing Fest 2026, with creative activities for group members and also public. Friendship bracelet and personalised affirmation bracelet making was enjoyed by many attendees.



Culture Night 2026

Tralee and Dingle Craft Circle took part in Culture Night event in collaboration and great teamwork with Siamsa Tíre. Our wonderful crafters and group members did demonstrations on wool spinning, punch needle craft, wood carving and crochet workshop together with artist Grainne Mulligan. We enjoyed being part of Siamsa Tíre - Arts Alive events and look forward to more creative community collaborations.





NEWKD Craft Circle CHRISTMAS MARKET

**SATURDAY,
28TH NOVEMBER**

Come along anytime between

12 and 4 PM

AT KCYS YOUTH CENTRE
Denny Street, Tralee

**COME AND SEE LOCAL CRAFTERS
WITH VAST ARRAY OF HANDMADE CRAFTS,
GIFTS, MUSIC, SWEET TREATS,
FACE PAINTING, RAFFLE AND MORE...**



Friendly, relaxed and creative
social space in 10 locations
across North Kerry!

NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE

♥ JOIN • CREATE • CONNECT ♥

WEEKLY GROUPS

-  **Tralee – Mondays**
Áras an Phobail, V92 CRW6  ♥
-  **Tralee – Mondays, 11am–1pm**
Kerry Women's Centre,
65 Rath Oraig, Rathass, V92 PH32,
(every second week) Contact 066 913 0430
-  **Ballyduff – Mondays, 7–9pm**
Benmore, Ballyduff, V92 A2VC
-  **Castleisland – Mondays, 7–9pm**
Family Resource Centre, 33A Church
Street, V92VCA3
-  **Ballyheigue – Tuesdays, 7–9pm**
Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre,
Sraid Thaidhg, V92 N22

-  **Dingle – Wednesdays, 7PM - 8.30PM**
Temperance Hall, Main Street, Dingle,
V92DV74
-  **Listowel – Wednesdays, 7PM - 9PM**
NEWKD Office, 20 Upper William Street
V31 TR68
-  **Ballybunion – Thursdays, 12noon – 1pm**
Ballybunion Community Centre, V31 TV25
-  **Tralee – Shanakill – Thursdays, 7–9pm**
Shanakill Family Resource Centre,
Monavalley, V92 PF30
-  **Lyreacrompane – Thursdays, 7–9pm**
Lyreacrompane Resource Centre,
V31 DA36 ♥

♥ For more info, contact ♥



Kristine 086 6602147



Dee 087 6356353

LYREACROMPANE CRAFT CIRCLE

Lyreacrompane Craft Group For the past year our very own Mary Leane has been working towards bringing Relay for Life in aid of the Irish Cancer Society to Kerry and specifically Lyreacrompane no mean feat as this was the very first time that a Relay for Life event would be held in Kerry. so Lyreacrompane Craft Group were asked to get involved and we have been raising funds for the Irish Cancer Society all year. Firstly through the making and selling of St Brigids Crosses and then by making and selling peg crosses. in amongst this a Relay for Life Team was evolved called The Crafty Ladies. We were blessed by support from the local non crafty community and our team grew to 18 members. On the weekend of 5th & 6th September we had a stall selling our peg crosses and other donated knitted and crocheted items, plus a raffle for 2 handmade imps and a handmade blanket set. The weekend was brilliant and we kept going for a full 24 hours! The Crafty Ladies Team raised a whopping €4240 and the Grand Total raised online so far is €100,911 the cheque reveal is due to take place soon. We are so proud of Mary and everything she has achieved bringing Relay to Kerry and a big thank you to everyone who walked, knitted, crocheted, bought candle bags or raffle tickets and of course the members of the Lyreacrompane Craft Group who went above and beyond for the Irish Cancer Society.



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY

Our groups have continued to make a meaningful contribution to their local communities, spreading kindness, care and creativity through a variety of community-based projects and initiatives. In Tralee, the NEWKD Craft Circle has collaborated with three local shops, bringing creativity into the heart of the town and helping to create welcoming, colourful window displays and decorations for the wider community to enjoy. Most recent decorations have been made in themes of Rose of Tralee festival, Bloomsday, Fathers Day, Halloween and autumn. We are very thankful to Oxfam, O'Mahony's Booksellers Tralee and SVP Castle St Tralee for great friendships and in supporting our groups.

Meanwhile, the Ballyduff Craft Circle has been busy decorating the local community centre - Buds Ballyduff, adding a personal and creative touch to a valued shared space.

These initiatives reflect the heart of NEWKD Craft Circle: bringing people together, sharing skills and talents, strengthening community connections, and making a positive difference through handmade creations and acts of kindness. Our groups demonstrate how creativity can reach beyond the craft table, helping to build a stronger sense of belonging, pride and community spirit.





TRALEE SHANAKILL CRAFT CIRCLE GROUP



Tralee Shanakill Craft Circle group celebrated their first birthday this September. Group has been working on painting with a string, book folding, diamond painting and other crafts in last few months.

SIAMSA TÍRE AND NEWKD CRAFT CIRCLE: CELEBRATING CREATIVITY, CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

Over the past year, Siamsa Tíre and NEWKD have developed a wonderful collaboration, bringing people together through a shared love of arts and crafts, creativity, learning new skills, and community connection. Through a series of exciting events hosted at Siamsa Tíre, this partnership has created welcoming opportunities for people to meet, share their passions, develop their skills, and enjoy the benefits of being part of a vibrant and inclusive community.

Kristine Sasko of NEWKD and Justin Walsh, Community Engagement Manager at Siamsa Tíre, joined forces to develop and deliver a range of community-focused events designed to encourage participation, celebrate creativity, and bring people together in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Stitch 'n' Screen: Bringing People Together Through Craft and Cinema

One of the first events to emerge from this collaboration was Stitch 'n' Screen, which took place at Siamsa Tíre on Saturday, 9th May. Organised by Siamsa Tíre and the NEWKD Craft Circle, the event invited knitters, stitchers, crocheters, and members of the wider community to enjoy a blockbuster film on the big screen while working on their own creative projects.

The first screening featured the much-loved romantic comedy *Pretty Woman*. With the theatre lights gently dimmed, participants could enjoy the film while knitting, stitching, or crocheting their garments and artwork, creating a unique and welcoming cinema experience.

Complimentary tea, coffee, and snacks were provided in the foyer, giving attendees the opportunity to meet, chat, exchange ideas, and connect with others who shared their interests before the screening began. The evening was a great success, with a wonderful atmosphere and a strong sense of community spirit throughout.

Building on this success, Kristine and Justin organised a second Stitch 'n' Screen evening, which proved even more popular. This time, participants gathered to enjoy the beloved classic *Dirty Dancing*, with an even greater number of community members coming along to join in the fun.

The growing popularity of these events highlights the value of creating accessible and inclusive opportunities for people to connect through shared interests. With such a positive response, a third Stitch 'n' Screen event has been planned for 15th February, with the aim of establishing it as a regular feature of Siamsa Tíre's community programme.

Culture Night 2026: Showcasing the Talents of NEWKD

The collaboration between Siamsa Tíre and NEWKD also played an important role in Culture Night 2026 at Siamsa Tíre, directed by Justin Walsh, Community Engagement Manager. For the occasion, the Round Gallery was transformed into a vibrant showcase of NEWKD's artwork, crafts, creative projects, and the incredible talents of the people involved in its programmes. Visitors had the opportunity to explore the displays, learn more about NEWKD's work, and discover the range of creative activities taking place within the local community.

The experience extended beyond the displays, with NEWKD delivering a series of hands-on workshops throughout the evening. Attendees were invited to try their hand at stitching and crocheting, offering many the opportunity to learn new skills, explore their creativity, and experience the enjoyment of making something themselves.

NEWKD's contribution was one of the highlights of the evening, with visitors expressing their appreciation for the displays and thoroughly enjoying the interactive workshops. The event demonstrated how arts and crafts can bring people together, encourage creative expression, and create meaningful opportunities for community participation.

Culture Night was another excellent example of how the partnership between Siamsa Tíre and NEWKD can celebrate local talent, promote creative learning, and make the arts accessible and welcoming to everyone.

Looking Ahead: A Community Fashion Show in 2027

Building on the success of these events, Siamsa Tíre and NEWKD are looking forward to another exciting collaboration in the new year: a community fashion show taking place in the foyer of Siamsa Tíre on 19th March 2027.

This special event will provide a platform for people to showcase their creativity, talents, designs, handmade garments, and artistic projects, celebrating the wonderful skills and imagination within the local community.

Participants will have the opportunity to model their own creations, share their designs, and highlight the work they have developed through their creative interests and skills. The fashion show promises to be a vibrant celebration of individuality, craftsmanship, self-expression, and community spirit.

By creating a platform for people to share their work and talents, the event will further strengthen the partnership between Siamsa Tíre and NEWKD, while encouraging more people to get involved in creative activities and discover new opportunities to express themselves.

A Partnership with Community at Its Heart

The growing relationship between Siamsa Tíre and NEWKD Craft Circle demonstrates the power of collaboration in creating meaningful and lasting community experiences. From the relaxed enjoyment of Stitch 'n' Screen to the interactive workshops and creative displays at Culture Night, these initiatives have brought people together in new and imaginative ways. Through the dedication and collaboration of Kristine Sasko of NEWKD and Justin Walsh, Community Engagement Manager at Siamsa Tíre, the partnership continues to create opportunities for people to connect, learn, share their talents, and enjoy the arts in a welcoming environment.

With further Stitch 'n' Screen evenings planned and the community fashion show on the horizon, the partnership looks forward to building on this success and developing even more opportunities for community engagement.

Together, Siamsa Tíre and NEWKD are celebrating the creativity, skills, and people that make our community special — demonstrating that the arts are not only something to watch, but something to experience, share, and enjoy together. By Justin Walsh, Community Engagement Manager at Siamsa Tíre



VARIETY OF OUR CREATIVE TALENTS

All artwork and crafts made by NEWKD Craft Circle group members



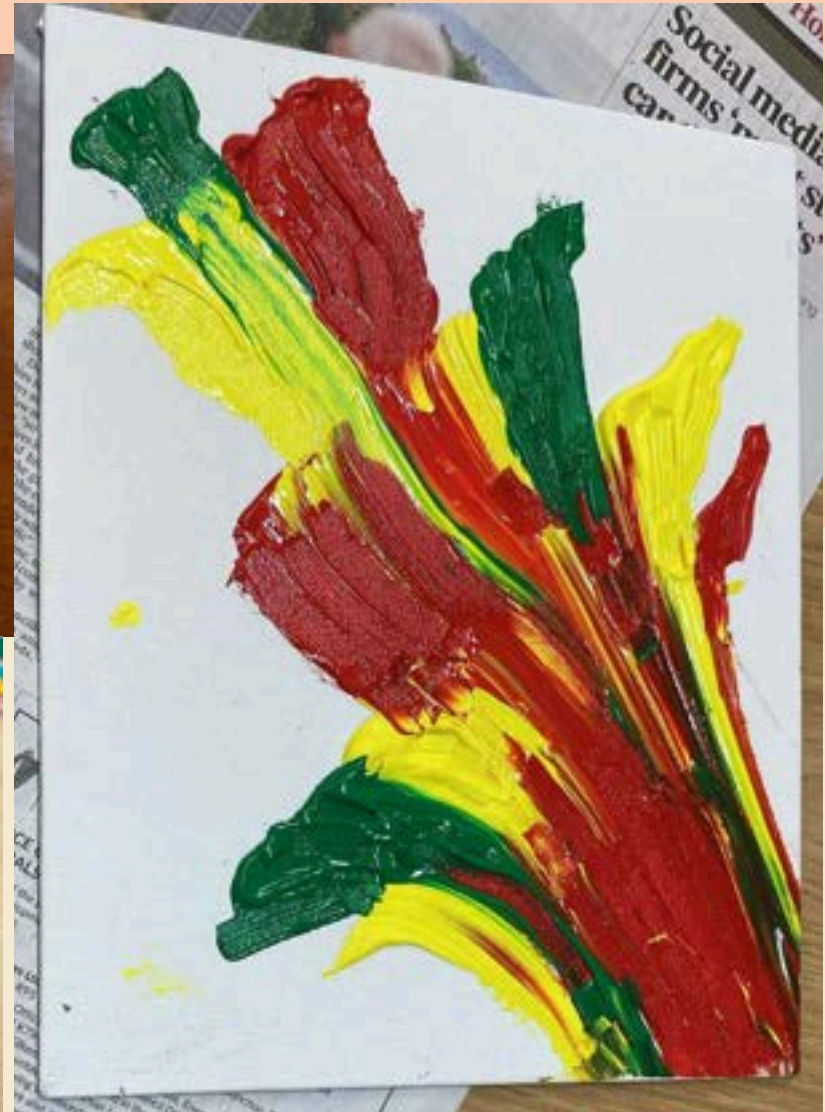
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BALLYDUFF CRAFT CIRCLE

Since June, Ballyduff Craft Circle finished their dog model for the Irish Guide Dogs charity project. We named him David Bow-wowie. We organised a bus trip to Cork to see him on display in Vibes and Scribes Craft shop window and take part in the Art Trail to find the other 49 decorated dogs. It was a wonderful day. We had a cheque presentation evening with some Irish Guide Dogs volunteers and their dogs. The article was in Kerry's Eye. We also had a cricut tutorial and demonstration, decorated plates and group made autumn and Halloween crafts to be displayed in Buds Family Resource Centre windows.



DINGLE CRAFT CIRCLE



Dingle Craft Circle group took a break over the summer and since we've come back we've started Christmas card making, sewing, and this week the group made affirmation bracelets for the KMHWF to link in with the 5 ways to wellbeing.

Dingle Craft Circle community quilt in collaboration with West Kerry A.R.A. - Connected by Tread - received Overall Winner Trophy at the West Kerry Agricultural Show. And Mary from Dingle Craft Circle won first prize during West Kerry Agricultural Show for her beautiful glass jewellery.



SUNFLOWER CRAFT CIRCLE GROUP

The new Sunflower Craft Circle Group has launched and now meets every other Monday at the Women's Center, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. I am teaching interested women the basics of crochet. Our first project will be a little chicken, starting with a "magic circle"—which is actually quite challenging! But we'll get there; after all, no one is born an expert. New members are always welcome. Please bring your favourite yarn—ideally in a solid color—along with a matching crochet hook.



CASTLEISLAND CRAFT CIRCLE

Castleisland Craft Circle has gotten off to a flying start with very strong numbers and a huge interest in learning new crafts. Our first craft of the year was Punch Needle Craft and we were supported by Koren from Tralee Craft Circle. We are looking forward to a very successful winter of crafting.



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 10 Craft Circles. Just click the link below to join our growing creative community!



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

DONATIONS

We welcome and are very grateful for any art & craft materials 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* 😊