



August Craft Month 2025

PR & Communications Evaluation

12th September 2025

Key Aim & KPIs

Key Aim

Drive visibility of the August Craft Month brand across the island of Ireland in summer 2025, encouraging people to get involved and celebrate August Craft Month this year.

Objectives

- A greater awareness of August Craft Month, the experiences and makers across the island that promotes:
 - The wealth of quality contemporary craft inherent in our culture, both North and South
 - The success of August Craft Month year-on-year
 - The consolidated approach with a range of key partners
 - The invaluable Craft Directory & August Craft Month programme capturing Irish craft
 - The skills and talent of local designer-makers island-wide
 - The excellent opportunities for the public to experience contemporary craft
 - The benefits to the makers and the craft sector
- The visibility of every county's involvement in NI and ROI (depending on events), and the sense of local initiatives.
- To reach the younger, craft forward demographic, through engaging with influencers.
- To develop existing relationships with NI and ROI media to build long-term partnerships for Craft NI and DCCI.

Key Activity

Maker callout release: Newly introduced for this year, and was warmly received with coverage in NI and forming base of conversations this year with ROI media.

Launch release: August Craft Month launch releases tailored across NI and ROI markets, announcing the launch including number of events, makers, regional spread.

Event and regional listings: Our main coverage driver again this year was county events listicles, updated and re-pitched for bank holidays, end of summer ideas etc.

PR photography: Launch photography in NI, with regional photography across events in used to accompany and strengthen media pitches.

Features and profile pitching: A number of story angles were assembled and pitched to media to secure print/online features and broadcast interviews.

Influencer activity: Worked with Sooby Lynch on content from two events. Posted across her Instagram in collaboration with ACM, Craft NI and DCCI.

Coverage tracker: Updated daily for client on current coverage as well as upcoming pieces and YOY results.

Coverage Highlights

THE IRISH NEWS

IRELAND'S
HOMES INTERIORS
& LIVING

News Letter 

 Irish Examiner

Belfast
Telegraph

RSVP
Magazine

DublinLive

Irish Independent 

SUNDAY
Mirror

IRISH COUNTRY
MAGAZINE

Results Summary

153

Number of Total Pieces

64

Number of Total NI Pieces

89

Number of Total ROI Pieces

10

Number of Broadcast Pieces
(1 NI) AND (9 ROI)

25%

Percentage of publications that
posted the piece to their social
channels

56%

Percentage of coverage
included link to ACM website

Results Summary

100%

Percentage of coverage across print, online and broadcast were positive or neutral in sentiment

70%

Percentage of coverage that included photography of makers and/or their work

32%

Percentage of coverage featured a quote/ interview from a Spokesperson

71%

Regional Coverage

29%

National Coverage

8,567,827*

Total Reach

***Based on figures provided by evaluation company Ruepoint, Jago shared alternative manual figure with client of 66 million**

NI County Coverage Summary

*Regional Coverage only does not include National Titles

County	No. Of pieces
Antrim	8
Armagh	10
Derry~Londonderry	9
Down	10
Fermanagh	N/A
Tyrone	3

ROI County Coverage Summary

*Regional Coverage only does not include National Titles

County	No. Of pieces
Carlow	N/A
Cavan	N/A
Clare	3
Cork	7
Donegal	5
Dublin	10
Galway	7
Kerry	2
Kildare	1
Kilkenny	3
Laois	N/A
Leitrim	2
Limerick	2

ROI County Coverage Summary

*Regional Coverage only does not include National Titles

County	No. Of pieces
Longford	N/A
Louth	13
Mayo	2
Meath	6
Monaghan	N/A
Offlay	N/A
Roscommon	2
Sligo	2
Tipperary	1
Waterford	2
Wexford	N/A
Wicklow	N/A

KPIs and Results Summary

- Proactivity achieve a minimum of **140 items of high-quality dedicated media coverage** for August Craft Month 2025, with a minimum combined reach of 30 million.

153 items of high-quality dedicated media coverage with a combined reach of 8.5 million.

- Ensure a **geographical spread of coverage for August Craft Month 2025** across Ireland, with a minimum of 50 items in NI and 90 in ROI market.

Regional spread achieved with 64 pieces in the NI market and 89 pieces in ROI market.

- Achieve at least **15 broadcast pieces** for August Craft Month 2025.

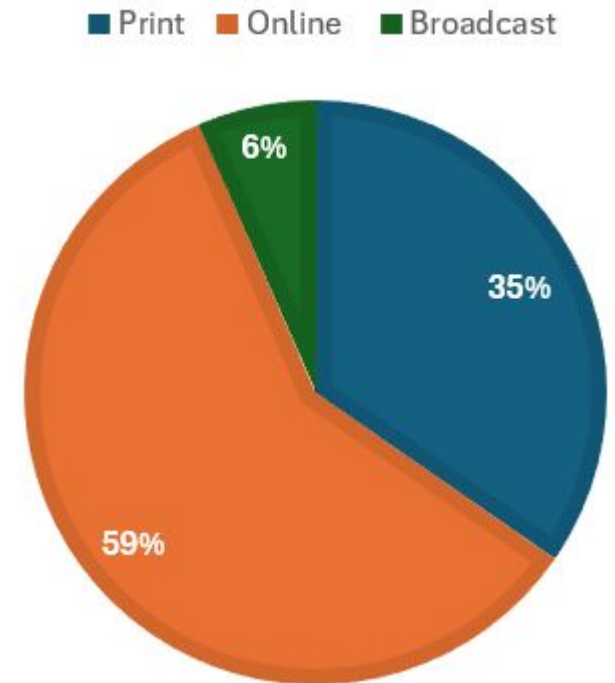
10 broadcast pieces achieved.

- Enhance and extend PR initiatives in **key social media platforms**, aiming for a minimum of 20% of media coverage to incorporate social media engagement.

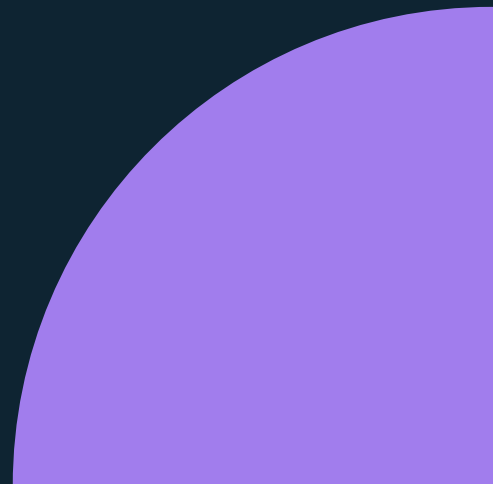
25% of media coverage incorporated media engagement.

- **Engage with at least one influencer, targeting young people's participation in August Craft Month 2025.**

5 pieces of successful content (stories x 4 and one reel) created in partnership with Sooby Lynch highlight 2 ACM Events to her audience of 14.9k followers.



NI Coverage



NI Coverage Breakdown

NI Total Reach: 490,381

64

Number of Total Pieces

07

Number of Total Print Pieces

56

Number of Total Online Pieces

1

Number of Broadcast Pieces

2

NI Makers features – Andrew Cooke and Josh Lyness
*Not including those in events listings, or PR releases/photos.

88%

Percentage of NI coverage included link to ACM website

Snapshot of results

Derry Journal

Makers invited to get involved in August Craft Month

Craft NI and Design & Crafts Council Ireland issue call out for makers to take part in month long celebration of craft

Craft makers across Ireland are being urged to register their interest in taking part in the annual month-long celebration of Irish craft that takes place in August.

This year's August Craft Month will bring together an array of talented makers as it celebrates a rich craft heritage with artisans keeping traditions alive and new talented makers bringing real vibrancy to the scene.



NI World

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News Letter

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Newry Reporter

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What's on NI

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With events taking place across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, August Craft Month represents a unique opportunity for people to get involved as well as supporting makers by buying products and learning more about their work.

Suzy O'Keefe, Head of Digital and Communications, Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI), said, "We at Design & Crafts Council Ireland are thrilled to once again work with Craft NI on the all-island August Craft Month.

"This is the fourth year we've partnered to generate and promote August Craft Month events, and we've seen increasing engagement from craft makers across the island, introducing new audiences to ways to take part in craft.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for people to take the plunge into the craft world, to see the amazing craft happening in their local communities and across the country."

Katherine McDonald, Director of Craft NI, said, "August Craft Month is a fantastic platform to honour and acknowledge the skilled makers we have right on these shores.

"With over 400 events last year, we want to encourage as many makers as possible to take part and we are delighted to see the applications already from councils, arts venues, guilds, galleries and individual makers.

"From hands-on experiences to inspiring talks, we welcome a variety of craft events. Your event could take the form of a hands-on workshop, meet-the maker session, a talk or even a craft trail.

"This is a fantastic way to share your work with the world."

The deadline for entry is Sunday, 8th June to register your interest in taking part please visit augustcraftmonth.org/applications.



Down News Online

Call For Crafters To Get Involved In Craft Month

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Snapshot of results

Newry Reporter

Fantastic celebration of craft on island of Ireland returns for 2025

August Craft Month back with packed programme of over 300 eclectic events

The countdown is on for an incredible month-long celebration of Irish craft!

This year's August Craft Month brings together an array of talented makers hosting over 300 events across the island of Ireland such as Seaweed Pressing with Farraige in Co.Cork, silversmithing classes in Co. Down, making your own upcycled tote bag with Leitrim Design House, and a range of masterclasses with one of Ireland's leading ceramic artists, Jim Turner.



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Down News Online

Crafters Prepare For Craft Month In August

Fantastic celebration of craft on island of Ireland returns for 2025

- August Craft Month is back with packed programme of over 300 eclectic events across Ireland and many in County Down.

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In county Down, you can tap into sessions on basketry, willow weaving, ceramics, furniture making, textile making, mixed media crafts, jewelry makin, glass working, silversmithing, mosaicas, glass working, printing lettering, fashion design, metal working, and felt work and more... check out the link for County Down crafters [HERE](#). There may be a cost for some of the sessions while many are free.

This programme celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across Ireland still use and share them today.

With events taking place acrossNorthern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, August Craft Month provides unique opportunities for people to get involved and support the 600+ makers involved by taking part in workshops, buying hand-crafted pieces and learning more about the skills involved.

Snapshot of results

NI World

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NI Chamber



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Derry Journal

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What's on NI

Creative Peninsula 2025 to Celebrate Arts and Crafts Across Ards and North Down

"Creative Peninsula is a fantastic showcase of the rich arts and crafts scene within our Borough," said the Mayor of Ards and North Down, Councillor Gillian McCollum. "We are fortunate to have so many gifted artists and makers living and working here, and this festival offers a special platform to highlight their talents. We look forward to welcoming everyone to explore the exciting programme on offer this year."

Conway Square in Newtownards will be transformed on Friday 1 August into a bustling arts and crafts village for the **Twilight Market and Arts Night**, where visitors can browse, buy or commission unique pieces, enjoy live demonstrations, and soak up music from String Ninjas and Cool Hand String Band. A selection of local artisan food, drinks and a bar provided by McBride's of Comber will also be available.

"We are thrilled to offer a vibrant programme of art and craft activities this August as part of August Craft Month," said Emily Crawford, Arts and Heritage Manager at Ards and North Down Borough Council. "With events at the Ulster Folk Museum and Castle Espie, our Twilight Market, exhibitions, workshops and Open Studios, there are plenty of opportunities to get creative."



Belfast



Feeling crafty

This year's August Craft Month brings together an array of talented makers hosting more than 300 events across the island of Ireland such as Seaweed Pressing with Farraige in Co Cork, silversmithing classes in Co Down, making your own upcycled tote bag with Leitrim Design House, and a range of masterclasses with one of Ireland's leading ceramic artists, Jim Turner. This year, makers have come together to form more established communities, planning a wide range of events that will appeal to everyone from the craft enthusiasts to collectors, or families planning a day out with kids. For what's on in NI in August, see craftni.org

What's on NI

NI Makers Get Involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's Biggest Celebration of Craft

July 29, 2025
By [whatsonni](#)

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Snapshot of results

Belfast

Throwing down

Craft NI's August Craft Month has returned with hundreds of events held across the province. This is the fifth Annual Belfast Potters Market and will be the biggest one yet, with more than 40 potters attending, free pottery demonstrations, kids pottery classes and a Q&A Session with this year's winner of Channel 4's Great Pottery Throwdown James Watson. It will be held at 2 Royal Avenue, Belfast between 10am-5pm.



Get crafty

Now in its 24th year, Creative Peninsula continues throughout August, offering an exciting mix of free and ticketed events that let people of all ages explore and engage with local art and craft. Programme highlights include Heritage Craft Afternoon at North Down Museum on August 3, between 1-4pm. Be inspired as makers demonstrate traditional skills like mosaic, stained glass, willow weaving, green woodworking, and printmaking. Admission is free.

Belfast Telegraph



Craft NI's August Craft Month

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Belfast Telegraph

Top of the pots

Friday Night Pottery is just one of the events for August Craft Month. Taking place on August 29 on the Beersbridge Road, whether you've always wanted to try ceramics, have some experience and want to dive back in, or simply fancy a different kind of night out, this is for you! It's all about having fun in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. No experience is needed — just bring your imagination! You'll create and paint your piece, and we'll handle the firing and glazing. Your pottery will be ready to collect a few weeks later. Strictly 16+, its costs £45 per person and advanced booking required. See belfastceramicsstudio.com



Snapshot of results

NI World

Fantastic celebration of craft on island of Ireland returns for 2025



John Collins Metalworker with Suzanne Lyle Arts Council NI & Katherine McDonald Craft NI

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Belfast Newsletter

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Ulster Gazette

Getting creative for August Craft Month



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Snapshot of results

Ballymena Guardian

Getting creative for August Craft Month



 clint.aiken@ulstergazette.co.uk

Thursday 14 August 2025 13:41

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Antrim Guardian

Still time to enjoy August Craft Month events



 Staff Reporter

Friday 29 August 2025 16:23

There is still time to enjoy the largest showcase of its kind on these shores as a number of events are still to take place as part of August Craft Month.

World renowned designers alongside emerging local artisans have come together to form a collective of over 1,000 talented makers to headline this year's celebration.

Hundreds of events and workshops have already taken place right across the island of Ireland, but there are still some key dates remaining before the curtain comes down on the annual August Craft Month.

It's the fourth year in its all-island format, as Craft NI and Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) partner to deliver events celebrating 26 different disciplines.

Together with the showcasing of artisan and traditional heritage and contemporary skills, August Craft Month provides a perfect platform for the general public to find out about craftspeople and makers either in their local area or in another county and to support them through purchasing their work.

August Craft Month remaining dates

Ballycastle Chronicle

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Tyrone Courier

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Newry Democrat

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The Outlook

Getting creative for August Craft Month



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Snapshot of results

Coleraine Chronicle

Getting creative for August Craft Month



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Ballymoney Chronicle

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Strabane Weekly

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Northern Constitution

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What’s on NI

Family-friendly craft events not to be missed this August

August 20, 2025
By [whatsonni](#)

Enjoy eclectic events across Northern Ireland in this month-long programme from Craft NI and Design & Crafts Council

August Craft Month, a celebration of the vibrant craft scene across the island of Ireland, is the perfect opportunity to introduce your young ones to local craft.

Everyone, even complete beginners and kids, can get involved. It is your chance to learn, make, explore and connect through creativity.

With just a few weeks left until the schools return, if you’re running out of ideas to keep the kids entertained or are simply looking for a family day out, Northern Ireland is full of opportunities to make, see and do this August.

From origami to copper engraving, August Craft Month offers ways for families to slow down, learn together and connect with skilled makers.

More than 300 events, featuring 1200 talented designer makers across 26 craft disciplines, will support centuries-old traditions while showcasing the innovation of today’s designers.

Here are just a few family-friendly events that will inspire, teach and entertain.



NI World

NI makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland’s biggest celebration of craft

By Lynne McIlroy [Contributor](#)



Published 13th Aug 2025, 10:48 BST | Updated 14th Aug 2025, 10:04 BST



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Newry Reporter

Home

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NI Makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's biggest celebration of craft

By Lynne McIlroy [Contributor](#)

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Enjoy eclectic events in Northern Ireland across the month-long programme from Craft NI and Design & Crafts Council

August Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, has launched with a host of exciting events taking place throughout Northern Ireland.

News Letter

Thousands flock to Moira for Food Fair celebration

By staff reporter
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[@FarmingLifeNI](#)

The quaint village of Moira came alive over the weekend to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the much-loved Moira Speciality Food Fair.

Hosted by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, it exceeded all expectations, transforming Moira Demesne into a vibrant food lovers' haven.

Across two sunshine lit days, over 14,000 artisan food lovers converged to celebrate local and regional artisan food and drink in a festival bursting with flavour, creativity and family enjoyment.

Visitors strolled the picturesque grounds and were greeted by an inspired blend of Northern Irish agri-food producers, street food vendors, chef demonstrations from the likes of Chris McGowan and Noel McMeel, crafts and lively entertainment.

Commenting on the success of another Moira Speciality Food Fair, Chair of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Regeneration & Growth Committee, Councillor Claire Kemp, said: "This year's Moira Speciality Food Fair was a true celebration of 10 incredible years of local

food, drink and community spirit. It's been inspiring to watch this event grow, not just in size, but in the quality and variety of producers it attracts. There's a real sense of pride in seeing so many talented artisans and small businesses thriving here.

"What makes this event so special is the energy and enthusiasm that fills Moira Demesne during it. From the friendly traders and delicious street food to the live music and family fun, the atmosphere was buzzing.

"It's also fantastic to see the positive impact on local village businesses, with footfall and interest spilling well beyond the event site. This kind of collaboration is exactly what drives local economic growth and strengthens our sense of place."

The artisan Food Hall showcased a stellar lineup of returning favourites such as Ispini Charcuterie, Tom and Ollie, The Daily Apron, Ballylisk of Armagh, Bakery Next Door, Monto's Chocolates, The Curious Farmer and Tullyveery Market Garden. Newcomers added fresh flair - Johnson's Coffee, The Pie Shop Moira, Little Cake Works (specialising in gluten-free bakes)

and Corleggy Cheese from County Cavan brought exciting new tastes to the mix.

The Street Food Hub was a major draw as always, featuring beloved local names including The Square Bistro with its Airstream trailer which served up signature Korean Chicken. In addition, The Flavoursmyth, Simply Scampi, The Hatch and Spanish cuisine specialist Tapitas added sensational flavours to enjoy.

The council also made sure to shine a light on August 'Craft Month' by showcasing some talented local crafters in the lineup, including Amber Jordan Designs and Mud Ireland.

The 'Talking Shop' Tent was also a big hit as it welcomed a diverse range of farmers to producers who drew the crowds in with their unique stories.

This year's Moira Speciality Food Fair offered an energetic celebration of regional talent, culinary creativity, and community spirit. With brilliant producer showcases, delectable street food, inspiring chef sessions, and family friendly entertainment, all underlined by seamless logistics, this milestone event lived up to and exceeded expectations.

Snapshot of results

Derry Journal

Still time to enjoy August Craft Month events

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World renowned designers alongside emerging local artisans have come together to form a collective of over 1,000 talented makers to headline this year's celebration.



The Creative Peninsula Exhibition at North Down Museum

Together with the showcasing of artisan and traditional heritage and contemporary skills, August Craft Month provides a perfect platform for the general public to find out about craftspeople and makers either in their local area or in another county and to support them through purchasing their work.

NI World

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Belfast Newsletter

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Belfast Telegraph

Screen scene

The Ulster Folk Museum is screening FilmMakers in their original Picture House, as part of August Craft Month on August 31 between 10am and 5pm. Five makers were invited to produce new work in response to heritage footage from NI Screen's Digital Film Archive in celebration of Northern Ireland's rich craft landscape, past and present. These films show the makers' responses alongside the archive footage that inspired them.

To book, visit ulsterfolk-museum.org



'I was good at art at school but didn't get to follow it through until now'

Artist's exhibition in Belfast city centre as part of the August Craft Month

2 ROYAL Avenue in Belfast is hosting a thought-provoking exhibition by Dundonald artist Andrew Cooke, whose art cut body of work, Animal Instincts, will be on display as part of the all island celebration that is August Craft Month.

This exhibition offers an honest and personal look at Andrew's artistic journey – from his first steps into the world of sculpture to his most recent sculptural pieces – shaped by life experience, resilience and a desire to explore the world through a different lens.

Alongside the exhibition, Andrew will also host a day-based workshop, Moulding Minds, on August 30, which will focus on supporting neurodivergent participants, particularly those with dyslexia or other learning difficulties. Both events aim to celebrate creativity in all its forms – and the different ways people experience and express it.

August Craft Month, led by Craft NI and Design & Crafts Council Ireland, is a cross-border programme of exhibitions, workshops, and maker events taking place across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

With over 900 craftspeople involved, it offers opportunities to explore the skill and imagination that underpins Ireland's rich craft heritage, while also highlighting contemporary in heritages of age-old traditions. Cooke's work blends traditional ceramic techniques with modern influences and themes, offering a personal perspective on creativity, identity and change.

Now in his late 50s, Andrew didn't follow a typical path into the arts. Originally working as a car body repair technician, he had to leave that career due to arthritis. Looking for something new, he took a ceramics class at St. Mark's, Bangor, where he discovered not just a new skill, but a new sense of direction.

"I didn't get into art until I was 40," Andrew says. "I was good at it in school, but I didn't get the chance to follow it through. After I got ill, I had to stop my work and I went back to college. That's when I was also diagnosed with dyslexia. Things started to make more sense after that."

He went on to study Fine and Applied Art at the University of Ulster, graduating in 2012. Since then, he's been building his practice under the name Kookidist.

The exhibition, Animal Instincts, reflects Andrew's journey – his shift from trade work to creative expression, and the challenges and discoveries along the way. The work explores themes of survival, emotion, and how people respond to the world around them.

"A lot of it's about fight or flight," he explains. "It's about how the brain works, how animals and humans in general. There's a lot of influences from neurodiversity in the pieces."

Among the standout works is a ceramic gorilla, which seems very intentional as a symbol of anger, but Andrew explains it's more about frustration. "It's not meant to look aggressive. One side of the brain is different to the other side if you look closely. That's something I wanted to get across."

Other pieces reference motorcycles and helmets, drawing from a serious motorcycle accident he had years ago. "There's a tragedy to them," he says. "It's about how life can change in an instant."

Andrew's workshop, Moulding Minds, takes place on Friday, August 30, also at 2 Royal Avenue. It's not just for neurodivergent participants, but also for anyone looking to learn new skills. "It's about the process of making –



Dundonald artist Andrew Cooke and, right, some of his work.

new clay tools in your hands, how it moves, and how creating something can be a mindful, almost meditative experience."

"I'm not really interested in making things and pushing it," he says. "I want to tell people the properties of clay, how to work it, and then let them decide what they're going to do."

The workshop is designed to be especially welcoming to neurodivergent participants, including those with dyslexia or dyscalculia, drawing on Andrew's own experiences navigating education and the art world.

"There's so many times out there when, like me, throughout their whole life, have just muddled along, went to work every day, but they couldn't get ahead academically. Now I know why I couldn't do it."

Although Andrew was involved in August Craft Month in earlier years, he admits he found the admin



who don't always see themselves reflected in creative spaces.

"There are still assumptions around craft, especially ceramics," he says. "Some see it as 'hobby' and think it's not for them, that it's for amateurs."

"If you look at my pieces, they're quite masculine. There's the gorilla, there's the motorcycle influences. I had a bad motorcycle accident 20 years ago, so that is the influence behind the ceramic helmets – the fragility of life. There is quite a bit of content in them."

For Andrew, craft isn't just about creating things. It's about connecting with ideas, with materials, and with each other.

"I've been working away on my own for years," he says. "Now I'm ready to get back out there, meet people again, and be part of something."

Whether you're interested in ceramics, inspired by stories of resilience, or curious about how creativity and neurodiversity connect, Animal Instincts offers something a little different. It's a chance to see craft in a new light – and maybe even try it for yourself.

Andrew is also working with Neurodiversity UK, a charity based in London, to run further workshops and creative sessions for neurodivergent individuals. For him, Animal Instincts and Moulding Minds are not just one-off events, but part of a wider goal to make spaces for people

For more about Andrew Cooke's work, visit kookidist.co.uk, or check out the full list of August Craft Month events at augustcraftmonth.org.

Snapshot of results

Irish News

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Ulster Gazette

Still time to enjoy August Craft Month events



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Tyrone Courier

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The Outlook

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Snapshot of results

Tyrone Constitution

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 Staff Reporter

Friday 29 August 2025 16:23

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Antrim Guardian

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Belfast Telegraph

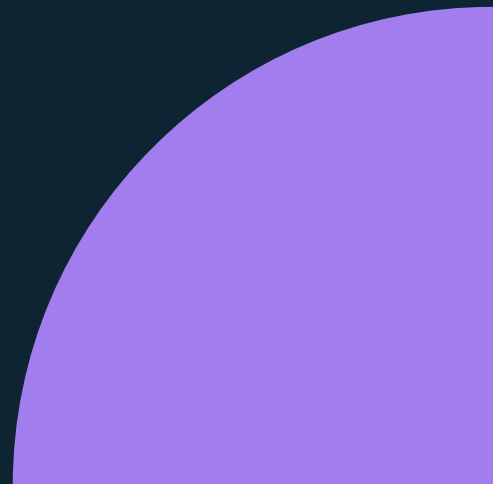
Screen scene

The Ulster Folk Museum is screening Film|Makers in their original Picture House, as part of August Craft Month on August 31 between 10am and 5pm. Five makers were invited to produce new work in response to heritage footage from NI Screen's Digital Film Archive in celebration of Northern Ireland's rich craft landscape, past and present.

These films show the makers' responses alongside the archive footage that inspired them.

To book, visit ulsterfolk-museum.org

ROI Coverage



ROI Coverage Breakdown

ROI Total Reach: 8,077,446

89

Number of Total Pieces

46

Number of Total Print Pieces

43

Number of Total Online Pieces

9

Number of Broadcast Pieces

7

ROI Makers profiled – Alice Cummins,
Adriana Torres Escobedo, Jane
Seymour, Tracy Fry, Sarah Mckenna,
Niki Collier and Amy Hasset

*Not including those in events listings, or PR
releases/photos.

41%

Percentage of NI coverage
included link to ACM website

Snapshot of results

Irish Country Magazine



Create Louth



Go Wild Magazine

Fantastic celebration of craft on island of Ireland returns for 2025
August Craft Month back with packed programme of over 300 eclectic events



Pictured are- Eleanor Wheeler, Ceramicist with Suzanne Lyle and Katherine McDonald
03 July 2025: The countdown is on for an incredible month-long celebration of Irish craft!

Snapshot of results

Echo Live.ie

Cork Views: Join us as we pay homage to Cork craft

Cork craft is thriving, and this August we are celebrating 20 years of Cork Craft and Design, says Ava Hayes, Festival Director, who reveals some of the highlights of the 2025 event



HANDS-ON ROLE: Ava Hayes, Cork Craft Month Festival Director, back centre, launching the 2025 event

The Echo

demos and more. Across the road, our neighbours at On The Pig's Back are showcasing a beautiful, curated collection of locally made craft. A perfect example of how craft lives alongside food, heritage, and community in Cork.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our partners and funders. We're deeply grateful to the Local Enterprise Office, Design & Crafts Council Ireland, August Craft Month, Cork Raite iresand, The Heritage Council, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Munster Technological University, Friends of the Crawford Art Gallery and Benchspace. Their commitment allows us to grow the programme, support our makers, and ensure craft continues to be accessible and visible to all.

As we celebrate 20 years, we're looking back, but more importantly we're looking forward!

The next chapter of Cork craft will be shaped by sustainability, community, and creativity. These values have always been present, but are more urgent now than ever.

Whether you're a seasoned collector, a curious beginner, or simply someone who loves beautiful things made with care, I invite you to explore what Cork Craft Month has to offer.

Visit corkcraftanddesign.ie to view the full programme and book your place at one of our 99 events. Join us this August across the city, county and community to experience Cork craft at its finest.

City Council, Cork County Council, Cork Education and Training Board, Creative Ireland,



HANDS-ON ROLE: Ava Hayes, Cork Craft Month Festival Director, back centre, launching the 2025 event

Snapshot of results

Sunday Mirror

Crafting a great event

The countdown is on for an incredible month-long celebration of Irish craft.

This year's August Craft Month brings together an array of talented makers hosting over 300 events across the island of Ireland such as Seaweed Pressing with Farrage in Co Cork, silversmithing classes in Co Down, making your own upcycled tote bag with Leitrim Design House, and a range of masterclasses with one of Ireland's leading ceramic artists, Jim Turner.

This programme celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across Ireland still use and share them today.

With events taking place across Northern Ireland and the Republic, August Craft Month provides unique opportunities for people to get involved and support the 600+ makers involved by taking part in workshops, buying hand-crafted pieces and learning more about the skills involved.

Led by Design & Crafts Council Ireland and Craft NI, the annual celebration is once again part of an island-wide summer programme.

The packed programme currently has over 300 events planned, allowing everyone, of all ages, and all levels of expertise to immerse themselves in creative craft celebrations on their doorstep and hit the road on a craft inspired adventure.

This year, makers have come together to form more established communities, planning a wide range of events that will appeal to everyone, from the craft enthusiasts to collectors, or families planning a day out with kids.

Additionally, Cork Craft Month, in association with August Craft Month, organised by Cork Craft & Design will once again present a vibrant programme of events in 2025, celebrating both contemporary and traditional craft across Cork city and county.

Mary Blanchfield, Interim CEO, Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI), said, "We're delighted to work with Craft NI to launch the fourth edition of August Craft Month taking place across the island of Ireland.

"Year-on-year we've seen increasing engagement from makers across the

island, introducing new audiences to ways to take part in craft and we're delighted to have over 600 makers onboard this year and growing. It's a reflection of the upsurge in interest in craft by the younger generation, who are throwing themselves into more 'hands on experiences' with a social and community element to them.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for people to see the incredible craft taking place in their local communities as well as across the country and to continue to celebrate our rich design and craft heritage."

Katherine McDonald, Director of Craft NI, said, "August Craft Month is a fantastic platform to honour and acknowledge our talented craft makers. This year's programme will have something for everyone. We have a really diverse range of craft disciplines taking part including ceramists, textile makers, glassblowers and designer-makers. It really does provide the perfect opportunity for people to get involved and try a craft for themselves.

"Taking the time to make can be incredibly therapeutic and choosing to buy a handmade piece often makes the most thoughtful and considered gifts."

For the full island-wide programme, visit www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Cork Chamber

Cork Craft Month launches its biggest programme yet as Cork Craft & Design celebrates 20 years

Ava Hayes, Cork Craft Month Festival Director, said: "Marking 20 years of Cork Craft & Design is a major milestone — not just for us as an organisation, but for the wider creative community we support. This year's expanded focus on workshops reflects a real appetite for hands-on, meaningful connection with the making process. We're very proud to create space for people to engage directly with local makers and discover the care and creativity behind every piece."

Additional events include a Demo Day (9 August) at Cork Craft & Design's Douglas Court shop, featuring live woodturning, pottery wheel throwing, and interactive demos for children. *On the Pig's Back* Cafe/Bistro in Douglas, a neighbour of Cork Craft & Design's flagship store, will also host a curated collection of locally made craft pieces.

Michael Whyte, Chair of the Cork Craft & Design Board added: "Cork Craft Month is about visibility, opportunity, and celebration. We're proud to showcase the work of both emerging and established makers in some of Cork's most beautiful spaces — from Fota House to St. Peter's and No. 46 Grand Parade. Supporting our maker community is at the core of everything we do, and this year's programme delivers that with real impact. We're deeply grateful to our customers, partners, and supporters whose continued commitment helps sustain and grow this vibrant creative network."

Cork Craft Month is supported by the Local Enterprise Office, Design & Crafts Council Ireland, August Craft Month, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Cork Education and Training Board, Creative Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, The Heritage Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Munster Technological University, Friend of the Crawford Art Gallery and Benchspace.

Meath Chronicle

TRIM

Craft Weekend

Meath Made Creates is a creative festival taking place in Swift Centre Trim on Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th August. The event which is part of August Craft Month is a family-friendly festival celebrating Meath's incredible craft makers with. There will be creative workshops for all ages at the event along with a free art exhibition; live craft demos; a special talk by global kidswear brand UPA; live music all weekend and tasty refreshments on site.

Coffee Cart/Trailer Wanted

Expressions of interest are being sought by CLG Átha Troim from owners of a fully equipped Coffee Cart/Trailer, ready to start operations immediately. Interested parties must have all relevant food safety training, insurance, indemnities etc legislation requirements in place

Email communications.trim@meath@gaa.ie for any further information or to register interest.

Snapshot of results

Meath Topic

Series of events to take place throughout Westmeath for Craft Month

A month-long celebration of craft is due to take place in Westmeath this August.

August Craft Month is Ireland's unique celebration of the craft sector in all its forms from traditional to contemporary, providing opportunities for all to learn about, make, see, and buy craft.

Now in its fourth year, it is the brainchild of the Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) in partnership with Craft NI. This year will see hundreds of events happen all over the country with eight exciting events planned for Westmeath, four of these at Eddie Conor Byrne's Glassmaking Studios in Delvin.

On Saturday, 2 August Eddie will kick off with a workshop to make your own sun catcher, followed by an introduction to stained glass workshop on Saturday, 9 August. On 16 August, he will host an introduction to fused glass workshop, finishing off with a fused glass lantern workshop on Saturday, 23 August.

Claire Delabre invites you to weave your own tweed in The Refill Mill, Mullingar on Saturday, 9 August and Caithriona Devine of Devine Studios, Crookedwood will host a mosaic workshop on Saturday, 16 August.

All that is left then is to discover the magic of wet felting in St James' Hall, Kibbegan at the Feltmakers Ireland Open Day on Sunday, 24 August. Hosted by Elizabeth Redding, this is a free day of workshop, exhibition, demonstration and a chance to meet the makers.

Prices for each workshop varies and each can be booked through augustcraftmonth.org



Caithriona Devine will host a mosaic workshop on Saturday, 16 August.

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The Irish Examiner

Crafted in Cork

As Cork Craft Month gets underway next week, **Carol O'Callaghan** highlights the must-attend events

SOMEONE who is passionate about what they're doing will always use the vocabulary of affection in their references. Cork Craft Month's festival director, Ava Hayes, is talking to me about the festival's events and activities across the city and county, from July 31-August 31, so I ask her for her top picks. Such is her care for the festival, it's like asking her to pick her favourite child.

With good humour, she says, "My two favourite children are the Emerge graduate exhibition at 46 Grand Parade with 20 new craft makers, and I'm excited to go to Fota House with an exhibition of our long-term makers."

Now in her third year as festival director, Ava's involvement started four years ago when she was appointed curator of the Emerge graduate exhibition showing work from the five Cork art colleges: Crawford College of Art & Design, Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, St John's

Central College, West Cork Campus Skibbereen which is a subsidiary of the Cork College of Commerce, and Kinsale College.

Ava has since handed over the reins for Emerge and turned her curatorial focus to the two showcase exhibitions which celebrate Cork Craft & Design, the membership organisation which galvanised Cork craft makers to come together and support and market themselves to the public. "This year is the 20th anniversary of Cork Craft & Design, so we have two showcase events called Echoes of the Makers, showing our members' work. The city-based one takes place in St Peter's, North Main Street, and we have a county location at Fota House," she says.

Everything is for sale at the events, and there's something for every budget. In the Cork Craft & Design shop, prices range from €30 to €200 for smaller pieces, which can include ceramics, wood-

turned objects and textiles which are easily portable for carrying home. The showcase exhibitions range from €300 to €2,000 and include bigger furniture pieces, so if you're in the market for buying a wedding or house-warming gift, there's a chance to buy something unique with a story behind the making of it.

It might be hard to know where to begin when you browse through the brochure online at corkcraftanddesign.ie, but if you have a Saturday free, Ava advises: "Start the Cork Craft Month journey with an open heart. Go to the exhibitions at St Peter's and Emerge in the city, and then Fota House to get a flavour. Take a trip to Killoe Studios in Ballydehob for live events and family events. On the way, there's the Green Dot in Clonakilty. You can go to Meet the Maker workshop event with wood turning or making a pot, where you'll learn about the process from the maker, and you then welcome the

pieces into your home." Such is the success of Cork Craft Month that it has become the template for similar events developing nationwide and the all-Ireland August Craft Month.

Furniture maker Fergal O'Leary, one of the early members of Cork Craft & Design, says, "We have 99 events this year — 80% of them are hands-on workshops with the makers, from Castletownbere to Youghal and up to Newmarket. They're very engaging. You come away with something more than a cup, something that lasts longer in your consciousness." Fergal also sees public awareness of the value of craft having grown. "People are more aware of what bang you can get for your buck," he says. "The craft category has been strengthened by the proliferation of what's online. It's a different experience. There's quality and depth to craft."

The permanent Cork Craft & Design shop at St

Patrick's Woolen Mills in Douglas and the pop-up shop at Douglas Court Shopping Centre have also contributed to this, he says.

"They're a nice focus and engagement with crafters and the public for events, and they've raised the profile of craft with the help of local enterprise offices, city and county council arts offices, the Department of Trade, Enterprise and Employment and local businesses."

But something else that sets these shops apart is the craft makers' commitment to spending time there talking to the public. "It's a personal story for everyone involved, the buyer and the maker. I always say, the maker talks about the process, the customer talks about the pieces," says Fergal. ■ [Instagram.com/corkcraftmonth](https://www.instagram.com/corkcraftmonth) ■ [Instagram.com/corkcraftanddesign](https://www.instagram.com/corkcraftanddesign)

Glass act

▶ A new exhibition called Connecting by the Glass Society of Ireland opens on August 1st in Kilkenny as part of August Craft Month 2025. Encapsulating traditional glass making skills alongside innovation, it showcases the creativity of artisans working with glass across Ireland as well as Irish makers working abroad. More than 30 artists will take part at the exhibition in the Jerpoint Gallery, where visitors can also see the studio and watch glassblowing. The exhibition will then move to the National Botanic Gardens on October 27th with workshops, guided tours, demos and talks. This piece from the exhibition called Big Autumn Tree is by Alexandra Mezo, a glass artist from Hungary working in Ireland. It comprises two leaf-shaped illuminated amber pieces of



glass in which she combined casting techniques with knitted, crochet designs created by her grandmother. glassocietyofireland.ie

DEIRDRE MCQUILLAN

The Irish Times

The Irish Examiner

Revealed: Cork Craft Month's top events and activities

As Cork Craft Month gets underway from July 31-August 31, we talk to the organisers and makers about the biggest programme to date



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Snapshot of results

Irish Country Magazine

August Event Guide: Gigs, plays, racing and plenty of festivals



1-31 Aug: August Craft Month, nationwide

This year's August Craft Month brings together an array of talented makers hosting over 300 events across the island of Ireland such as Seaweed Pressing with Farraige in Co Cork, silversmithing classes in Co Down, making your own upcycled tote bag with Leitrim Design House, and a range of masterclasses with one of Ireland's leading ceramic artists, Jim Turner. This programme celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across Ireland still use and share them today. Visit augustcraftmonth.org for more.

Ireland Live

Louth makers get involved in August Craft Month

Enjoy eclectic events in Louth across the month-long programme from Design & Crafts Council and Craft NI



Sarah McKenna in Bridge Street Studios with a vase from her 'Blossom Collection' August Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, launches with a host of exciting events taking place throughout [Louth](#).

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This year August Craft Month returns with a packed programme of over 300 events from more than 900 makers across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland including workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals to allow audiences to immerse themselves in local craft.

Dundalk Democrat

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Snapshot of results

Donegal Live

Ramelton artist to hold workshop and studio demonstrations for August Craft Month

Karen O'Kane's colourful hand painted silk, inspired by beautiful Donegal, is hand-made into lampshades, lighting and soft furnishings



Karen O'Kane outside Kokodesigns Studio in Ramelton

[Ramelton](#) silk and textile artist Karen O'Kane will hold a workshop and studio demonstrations for August Craft month.

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Karen's colourful hand-painted silk, inspired by beautiful Donegal, is hand-made into lampshades, lighting and soft furnishings.

The introduction to silk painting workshop will take place at Karen's studio, Kokodesigns Studio, Glen Lower, Ramelton, F92D6K0, on Saturday, August 23, from 11am to 1pm, with a price of €45.

Louth Live

Ramelton artist to hold workshop and studio demonstrations for August Craft Month

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Sligo Weekender

Craft comes alive in Sligo as August Craft Month launches across Ireland

A CELEBRATION of creativity and tradition is sweeping across the island of Ireland this August, as August Craft Month returns with an expansive programme of events, including a vibrant series taking place throughout County Sligo.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned maker, the month offers countless opportunities to experience, participate in, support, and purchase locally made craft.

In Sligo, the spirit of the celebration is felt strongly at Rathcormac Craft Village, where local makers such as those from Rathcormac Craft are at the heart of the events. Among the highlights is The Shape of Place exhibition, running from 11am on August 13 until 3pm.

With more than 300 events featuring over 900 makers, August Craft Month 2025 promises a dynamic and immersive experience for audiences keen to explore local craft.

From workshops and exhibitions to open studios and festivals, the initiative spans the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, bringing together 26 craft disciplines under one umbrella.

Located beneath the striking outline of Benbulbin, the exhibition captures the creative dialogue between land, sea and sky through a collection titled Of Salt and Stone. This group exhibition showcases a rich blend of fine art, ceramics, woodturning, and layered landscape maps, all inspired by the elemental forces of the Atlantic. From seascapes on slate to vessels glazed in ocean hues, and from carved waves in wood to precision cartography, each piece tells a story of connection to the landscape.

The works evoke memory, material, and meaning, offering visitors a tactile and visual experience rooted deeply in place. August Craft Month is a celebration not only of individual craftsmanship but of shared heritage and contemporary vision. It invites locals and visitors alike to take a craft-inspired journey—whether just down the road or across the island.

For more info on the full programme and to support the craft sector, visit www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Share your experiences by tagging @augustcraftmonth25 and using the hashtags #augustcraftmonth2025 and #makeseebuy.



Snapshot of results

Irish Famers Journal

Irish Examiner

Donegal News & Derry People

Get out and get crafty

From silversmithing in Co Down to seaweed pressing in Cork, there is something for everyone to learn and enjoy during August Craft Month. An island-wide initiative led by the Design & Crafts Council Ireland and Craft NI, Craft Month brings together 600-plus makers in over 300 events nationwide. It is a programme that celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, including ceramics, textiles, and glassblowing, and it takes people behind the scenes to see the skills involved. Learn how these ancient techniques have found new ground in a modern Ireland. See augustcraftmonth.org.

Pictured below: Eleanor Wheeler at her ceramics workshop event. \ August Craft Month.



Happy ever crafter



A UPA Kidswear model has fun at the launch of August Craft Month. This year's programme features an all-island celebration of Irish craft, with more than 300 events taking place across the Republic and the North. Picture: Leon Farrell/Photocall Ireland

Donegal makers involved in August Craft Month

THERE is much excitement ahead of the launch of August Craft Month.

The month-long craft event spans across the island of Ireland and is a celebration of local craft.

This year will include a jam packed programme of over 300 events from more than 900 makers including workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals.

There promises to be something for all ages with 26 craft disciplines represented.

The busy programme of events allows everyone to immerse themselves in creative craft celebrations on their doorstep and hit the road on a craft inspired adventure or staycation.

The programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector.

Donegal is in luck as it's set to host an array of captivating events. There will be an introduction to silk painting workshop in Kokodesigns studio, Glen Lower, Ramelton.

This will run on Saturday, August 23 at 11.00am until 1.00pm.

During the workshop you will be introduced to the art of painting on silk using a resist technique. At the end of the workshop you will have pro-



Karen O'Kane from Koko Design Studios who will host events during this year's August Craft Month.

duced a silk painting to take home. All materials will be provided. The cost is €45.

Kokodesigns Open Studio will also be hosted at Kokodesigns studio in Ramelton.

This free event will take place every Friday throughout the month of August starting at 10am and ending at 5.30pm.

At this open studio you can find out more about the work of

silk and textile with artist Karen O'Kane, whose colourful hand painted silk, inspired by beautiful Donegal, is hand-made into lampshades, lighting and soft furnishings.

For the full island-wide programme and to get involved and show your support for your local craft sector visit www.augustcraft-month.org.

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You can also share your own craft adventures by tagging @augustcraftmonth25 and use the hashtags #augustcraftmonth2025 #make-seebuy.

Snapshot of results

Dundalk Democrat

Louth makers get involved in events for August Craft Month

August Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, launches with a host of exciting events taking place throughout Louth.

This year August Craft Month returns with a packed programme of over 300 events from more than 900 makers across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland including workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals to allow audiences to immerse themselves in local craft.

With 26 craft disciplines represented there is something for everyone, of all ages, and all levels of expertise to experience, support, make, see and buy stand-out local craft.

August Craft Month celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across the island still use and share them today.

The packed programme of events allows everyone to immerse themselves in creative craft celebrations on their doorstep and hit the road on a craft inspired adventure or staycation.

Led by [Design & Crafts Council Ireland \(DCCI\)](#) and [Craft NI](#), August Craft Month is also continuing its long-term collaboration with [Cork Craft & Design](#).

Local makers such as Sarah McKenna, Tracy Fry and Adriana Torres Escobedo

will all be involved in the celebrations and events, to name a few.

The programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector.

Here are just a few of the exciting events on offer in Louth:

Resin Art Demonstration with Tracy Fry.

Location: Creative Spark Downtown Hub, 42-43 Clanbrassil St, Townparks, Dundalk

Price: Free
Date & Time: Thursday 14th Aug at 6pm - 7.30pm

Live resin art demonstration hosted by Tracy on August 14.

This hands-on session introduces participants to the fundamentals of working with resin, including essential health and safety practices, mixing techniques, and the use of colour additives such as mica powders and alcohol inks. The demonstration will conclude with an interactive Q&A session, offering a chance to dive deeper into the process.

Whether you're new to resin or looking to refine your skills, this event is a unique opportunity to explore the creative and practical potential of this dynamic

medium, while considering our relationship to place and environment.

Sarah McKenna Ceramics: 10 Years of Home Comforts Exclusive Studio Showcase.

Location: Sarah McKenna Ceramics Studio, Bridge Street Studios, 97 Bridge Street, Dundalk

Price: Free
Date & Time: Saturday 23rd Aug at 10am - 5pm.

Join ceramic artist Sarah McKenna as she celebrates the 10th anniversary of her beloved Home Comforts Collection.

Throughout August Craft Month, Sarah will be opening her 250-year-old Dundalk studio to offer an exclusive insight into her creative process and the stories behind her cherished collection.

On Saturday 23 August, Sarah will host a special event that provides a deeper look at the inspiration for her work.

The event will feature imprints of vintage wallpaper, letterpress text, and her signature house motif with a glossy red heart.

This is a unique opportunity to see where the magic happens and discover how each handmade piece tells a story, marking meaningful moments for homes across Ireland and beyond.

Be among the first to witness the unveiling of exclusive new pieces created

especially for this anniversary celebration.

This is a perfect chance to acquire a unique piece of Irish design directly from the artist.

Ceramic Masks Workshop.

Location: The watchtower Mchughs 1-3 Cord Rd, East Drogheda

Price: Free
Date & Time: Sunday, 16th Aug at 4pm - 9pm.

Immerse yourself in a creative and cultural Ceramic Mask Workshop led by Adriana y Julio of Gato Thor Ceramica.

In this five-hour session, you'll design your own mask using traditional Peruvian techniques inspired by the Moche and Nazca cultures—or follow your own freestyle vision. No experience needed!

Enjoy small breaks with delicious Peruvian finger foods from Fine Peruvian pastries and create using special clay and hand-mixed ceramic slips.

Your finished mask will be professionally dried, fired, glazed, and ready for collection in 3-4 weeks. All materials and tools are provided, plus a special gift from the studio.

For the full island-wide programme and to get involved and show your support for your local craft sector visit www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Letterkenny Live

Ramelton artist to hold workshop and studio demonstrations for August Craft Month

Ramelton silk and textile artist Karen O'Kane will hold a workshop and studio demonstrations for August Craft month.

Karen's colourful hand-painted silk, inspired by beautiful Donegal, is hand-made into lampshades, lighting and soft furnishings.

The introduction to silk painting workshop will take place at Karen's studio, Kokodesigns Studio, Glen Lower, Ramelton, F92D6K0, on Saturday, August 23, from 11am to 1pm, with a price of €45.

During the workshop, Karen will introduce the art of painting on silk using a resist technique. At the end of the workshop, attendees will

have produced a silk painting to take home. All materials will be provided.

Karen will also open her studio each Friday in August from 10am-5.30pm to free demonstrations of how she designs and paints on silk to make her range of homeware.

August Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, launches with a host of exciting events taking place throughout Donegal.

This year, August Craft Month returns with a packed programme of over 300 events from more than 900 makers across the Republic

of Ireland and Northern Ireland including workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals to allow audiences to immerse themselves in local craft.

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More than half of the women in Donegal experience anxiety, survey reveals
SEE PAGE 5



Ramelton artist to hold workshop and studio demonstrations for August Craft Month
SEE PAGE 7



St Eunan's GAA club host Cúl Camp



Karen O'Kane of Kokodesigns Open Studio

Snapshot of results

West Cork People

Discover Dunmanway's Aladdin's cave

Located on Dunmanway's main street, Le Chéile Arts is a charming arts and crafts shop and gallery – an Aladdin's cave showcasing the creative talents of Cork-based artists and makers. Originally launched as a pop-up in 2022, the business has grown rapidly, expanding from a small collective to representing the work of over 70 artists. Today, it proudly showcases both contemporary and traditional pieces by local artists and skilled crafters.

Spread across three inviting rooms, the space is filled with everything from affordable keepsakes, cards, jewellery and hand-knitted baby clothes to original paintings, ceramic art, and striking carved stone sculptures. Whether you're browsing for a thoughtful gift or a statement piece, there is something

for all occasions here.

Above the shop, regular creative workshops and classes for both children and adults are held, led by local artists eager to share their skills, techniques, and passion across a variety of mediums.

Now in its third year of business, the successful gallery continues to grow with new artists and crafters regularly joining and updating the diverse range of work on display and for sale. Over the past year, the space has expanded with the addition of a new room, offering even more to explore and Le Chéile Arts is now part of newly-launched West Cork Arts Trail.

This August, Le Chéile Arts is proud to participate in Cork's August Craft Month with two inspiring workshops. On August 16, artist Emily Thompson will

lead an adult needle felting workshop, where participants can create a wool painting inspired by scenes of Dunmanway. Meanwhile, on August 2 and 9, artist Gwen McGuirk will host a two-part watercolour painting workshop, introducing the joy of capturing nature through the delicate art of watercolours.

To book a place, call Cecilia on 087 247 8351. For updates on current and upcoming events, follow Le Chéile Arts Dunmanway on Facebook and Instagram.

Le Chéile Arts has been supported throughout its journey by Cork County Council and Creative Ireland through their Creative Start-Up grants.

The shop and gallery is open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10am to 6pm. For truly local arts and crafts find it in Dunmanway (P47 NX47).

Leitrim Observer

The Leitrim Design House National Awards and upcoming events 2025

In celebration of twenty-five years sustaining and nurturing creative Irish businesses The Leitrim Design House National

Design, Craft & Art Awards Event & Exhibition takes place on Friday 15th August 2025.

The afternoon will begin with reception drinks at 4.30pm, followed by the main event at 5pm and announcement of the finalists at The Dock Art Centre, Carrick-on-Shannon. These National awards celebrate excellence in design and artisanship and are made possible by the sponsorship from the Local Enterprise Office, Leitrim and partly funded by Design and Craft Council Ireland, as part of the August Craft Month programme 2025. Booking is required for this free event as seating is

limited. For more information visit www.leitrimdesignhouse.ie or call 071 9650550.

The Leitrim Design House issued an open call to makers, artists and designers from across the island of Ireland to respond to the theme of sustainability. Following an evaluation by our independent judging panel, the first prize of €2,500 will be presented for the best overall submission. The winner of this award will also be invited for a solo exhibition in 2026. A specially commended prize of €1,000 will be awarded to a runner up.

The high number of quality submissions received is a testament to the immense skills and creative talent in Ireland today. A shortlist of ten makers will exhibit their

work and share presentations on their inspiration and processes behind the pieces.

The exhibition of work will be judged anonymously by five highly regarded industry professionals and experts including Eddie Shanahan, Mary Palmer, Una Burke, Deirdre McQuillan and Joe Lowe, Head of Enterprise, Leitrim County Council. The exhibition will continue until Saturday 13th September, with the exhibition will continue until Saturday 13th September.

Also taking place in August are two exciting workshops as part of August Craft Month. On 8th August we welcome CycleUp Textiles for 'Make your own upcycled tote bag workshop' where adults will learn how to create their own unique tote bag

using upcycled textiles. And on 21st August Helena Golden, Willow Woman, will facilitate a 'Willow bird feeder workshop' for children, where children will connect with the timeless craft of willow weaving, each participant will weave their own beautiful, functional bird feeder to take home. Both workshops are booked out but join our email list to hear about upcoming events

Opening hours are 10am – 6pm Mon – Friday and 10am – 5pm on Saturdays. Visit us in the beautiful Dock Art Centre, St. Georges terrace, Carrick-on-Shannon or online at www.leitrimdesignhouse.ie For further information follow us on www.facebook.com/TheLeitrimDesignHouse/



The Leitrim Design House Shop.

Dungarvan Observer

Waterford makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's Biggest Celebration of Craft

Enjoy eclectic events in Waterford across the month-long programme from Design & Crafts Council and Craft NI

AUGUST Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, launches with a host of exciting events taking place throughout Waterford.

This year August Craft Month returns with a packed programme of over 300 events from more than 900 makers across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland including workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals to allow audiences to immerse themselves in local craft.

With 26 craft disciplines represented there is something for everyone, of all ages, and all levels of expertise to experience, support, make, see and buy stand-out local craft.

August Craft Month celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across the island still use and share them today.

The packed programme of events allows everyone to

immerse themselves in creative craft celebrations on their doorstep and hit the road on a craft inspired adventure or staycation. Led by Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) and Craft NI, August Craft Month is also continuing its long-term collaboration with Cork Craft & Design.

Local makers such as Eileen Singleton will be involved in the celebrations and events.

The programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector. Below you will find an exciting craft event on offer in Waterford.

Texture in Clay – Ceramics Masterclass
Location: Touraneena
Price: €150 | Max: 6 participants

Date & Time: Saturday, 16th August
Join Eileen Singleton at

Touraneena, Co. Waterford

This event is part of an exclusive series of hands-on masterclasses, sponsored by the DCCI, invites participants to explore various aspects of contemporary ceramic practice, from paper clay construction to porcelain slab work and experimental surface decoration.

Led by experienced artists in inspiring locations across Ireland, these workshops are ideal for ceramicists, designers, and craft professionals eager to develop new techniques in a focused, small-group setting.

For the full island-wide programme and to get involved and show your support for your local craft sector visit www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Share your own craft adventures by tagging @augustcraftmonth25 and use the hashtags #augustcraftmonth2025 #make-seebuy

Snapshot of results

Kilkenny People

Local makers involved in August Craft Month

August Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, launches with a host of exciting events taking place throughout Kilkenny.

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Led by Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) and Craft NI, August Craft Month is also continuing its long-term collaboration with Cork Craft and Design.

Local makers such as Made in Kilkenny, Glass Society of Ireland, and Denise O'Connell and Ray Power will all be involved in the celebrations and events, to name a few.

The programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector.

MADE/NEWLOCATION

This event takes place at Mayfair Library, Parliament street, Kilkenny. Price: Free. Saturday, August 9 at 10am to Saturday, August 30 at 5pm.

MADE/NEW celebrates the exciting new work of 26 current members and welcoming fresh new talent. This exhibition highlights the dynamic spirit of contemporary craft in ceramics, jewellery, glass, wood, and more—blending tradition with innovation, as new members join a collective rooted in heritage and creative excellence.

CONNECTIONS

Location: Jerpoint Glass, Oldtown, Stoneyford. Price: Free. Friday, August 1 at 7pm to Tuesday, September 30 at 5pm.

A group exhibition by members of the Glass Society of Ireland at Jerpoint Glass exploring themes of connection through glass. The show highlights relationships between maker, material, community, and the broader environment.

SOAP AND CERAMIC SOAP DISH MAKING

Location: Castle Yard, Kilkenny. Price: €130. Sunday, August 3 at 10am to 1.30pm.

Join Ray from Castle Arch Pottery and Denise from My Skin Integrity for a serene three hour workshop in the Castle Yard, Kilkenny.

Using pinch pot and slab building techniques, you'll handcraft your own unique ceramic soap dish, which will be glazed and kiln fired after the session. Then, create your own cold process soap.

FULL PROGRAMME

For the full island-wide programme and to get involved, visit www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Potters' market returns for a sixth year

One-day family-friendly event on the Parade next weekend will feature 28 talented potters

The Kilkenny Potters Market returns this year for the sixth time, bigger and better than ever.

This year, it's a one-day only event taking place on the Parade on Sunday, August 10 from 10 am to 6 pm, featuring 28 talented potters hailing from all over the country, with a high contingent of makers local to the Kilkenny area.

A free family-friendly event in the heart of Kilkenny City, this vibrant market presents visitors with the opportunity to explore and purchase unique, hand crafted ceramics. Showcasing a wide variety of ceramic styles, techniques and materials used, it promises to be a delightful experience for all ages, celebrating the art of pottery in a festival atmosphere.

As part of the AKA

(Alternative Kilkenny Arts Festival), the Kilkenny Potters Market is a must-visit event for lovers of art and craft. Visitors will have the chance to delve into the world of ceramics and discover the unending possibilities the medium of clay has to offer. From functional pieces to sculptural art to porcelain jewellery, the market will showcase a diverse range of ceramic creations. Every piece is lovingly made by hand representing the pinnacle of craftsmanship.

This event is a fantastic opportunity to meet and engage directly with the makers, learn about their inspirations, creative processes, materials used and the stories behind the work.

Several of the participating potters originate in other countries

and have made Ireland their home, bringing their diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences to their work, adding an international flair.

Many featured artists live locally, such as event organisers Lydia Smith and Sonja Guenther.

Speaking on the importance of the market to potters Lydia said: "Kilkenny is a real magnet for craftspeople, it's an inspiring place to live and that's really shown in the quality and variety of work."

Another participating local potter and former market organiser said:

"Taking part in the potters market gives me the opportunity to engage directly with my customers, get feedback and network with other makers." This event is also part of

DCCI's August Craft Month calendar and their 'Made Local' — Made to Last campaign, highlighting and promoting the uniqueness and high quality of Irish designers and artisans.

It promises to be an enriching experience that enhances the appreciation of the craft and the vibrant cultural tapestry it represents. It offers not only a learning experience but also a unique opportunity to purchase bespoke, handmade works of art that are both beautiful and practical and to support local makers.

For further information please go to Instagram: @kilkenny.pottersmarket or email kilkennypottersmarket@gmail.com.



A busy potters' market on the Parade

Irish Country Magazine

LIVING

What's on

A round-up of some of the top activities and must-see events happening across the country in the coming weeks.



Billy Clyro

FOOD AND DRINK

Armagh Food and Cider Weekend 4-7th September

A festival brimming with fine foods, foraged lunches, cider tasting, tours, talks and fiction amongst the apple-laden orchards. Combine all this with award-winning ciders and the most stunning surroundings, with a focus on intimate, quirky venues and exclusive dining, and you are in for a harvest treat! visitarmagh.com

Dublin Beer Festival 12-13th September

Every year beer lovers from across Ireland and beyond gather for a vibrant, hop-fuelled experience in the RDS that showcases the best of Irish craft brewing alongside international favourites. Whether you're a seasoned beer connoisseur or simply curious about the world of brewing, the Dublin Beer Festival is the perfect place to explore, taste, and connect. dublinbeerfestival.com



Armagh food and Cider Weekend



CULTURE

Belfast Maritime Festival 6-7th September

Belfast's iconic Titanic Quarter will be transformed into a vibrant celebration of sea, ships and stories as the Maritime Festival makes its much-anticipated return. The waterfront will be a hive of activity, with historic ships moored along the quayside, street theatre, live music, interactive heritage experiences, artisan food markets and family-friendly zones. For the little ones, check out Wee Critters, Mini Explorers and more family fun in Kidszone at Queens Quay. belfastmaritimefestival.com

The Vitamin Sea Festival 19-21st September

Returning for a fifth year, this vibrant seaside festival showcases Tramore in Co. Waterford's rich coastal culture, culinary delights, and wellness offerings. The event features a diverse lineup of activities such as sunrise stand-up paddleboarding with breakfast at Newtown Cove, sushi-making workshops, a combined surf and yoga day retreat, whiskey and food pairings at local venues, beachcombing and found-object craft workshops, sake and organic wine tastings, forest bathing with morning tea, sunset paddles followed by pizza at the pier, and a traditional Irish celtic dance gathering. visitwaterford.com

CREATIVE

Craft Month August

This year's August Craft Month brings together an array of talented makers hosting over 300 events across the island of Ireland. This initiative celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across Ireland still use and share them today.

The packed programme provides unique opportunities for people to get involved and support the 600+ makers involved by taking part in workshops, buying hand-crafted pieces and learning more about the skills involved. augustcraftmonth.org

ON SALE NOW

Moulin Rouge:

Bord Gais Energy Theatre, Dublin, 20th November-11th January

Billy Clyro:

SSE Arena, Belfast & 3Arena Dublin, 9th & 10th January

Miss Saigon:

Grand Opera House, Belfast, 10th-21st March

Metallica:

Aviva Stadium, 19th & 21st June

Snapshot of results

Mayo Live

Here are all the Mayo events happening as part of Craft Month

The best the county has to offer in terms of craft experiences will be on display this August



Jewellery-making, needle-felting, and clay-creation are some of the events that are taking place this Craft Month

Dublin Gazette

August Craft Month is here

All across Ireland, August is a celebration of craft, creativity, and community – and Dublin's rural towns and villages are bursting with talent, *writes Rose Barrett!*

From pottery to weaving, woodworking to jewellery, our rural makers are at the heart of this month-long celebration. Join Dublin Rural Leader by exploring local workshops, exhibitions, and open studios — or get inspired to try your own hand at a craft!

Check out what's happening near you: <https://augustcraftmonth.org>

Kerry Eyes

Kerry crafters celebration

AUGUST CRAFT Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, features a range of events taking place throughout Kerry.

August Craft Month celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across the island still use and share them today.

The programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector.

Events on offer in Kerry include Excellence in Irish Ceramics at 21 Main Street Kenmare, a curated exhibition of the very best of Irish Ceramics, larger artworks commissioned exclusively for Mil Cove Gallery.

This exhibition will be on display to the 17th August, and celebrates the finest contemporary ceramics Ireland has to offer, bringing together a distinguished group of the country's leading artists, from delicate porcelain to bold sculptural forms.

Meanwhile in Tralee, a needle-felted Kerry Mountain is taking shape at 125 Rock Street.

This event is an opportunity to try the textile art of needle-felting, and participants will create a miniature felted picture of a mountain using wool roving on a felt background.

More info at www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Snapshot of results

Tirconail Tribune

Donegal Makers get involved in Craft Month

August Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, launches with a host of exciting events taking place throughout Donegal.

This year August Craft Month returns with a packed programme of over 300 events from more than 900 makers across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland including workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals to allow audiences to immerse themselves in local craft.

With 26 craft disciplines represented there is something for everyone, of all ages, and all levels of expertise to experience, support, make, see and buy stand-out local craft.

August Craft Month celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across the island still use and share them today.

The packed programme of events allows everyone to immerse themselves in creative craft celebrations on their doorstep and hit the road on a craft inspired adventure or staycation. Local makers such as Karen O'Kane will be involved in the celebrations and events.

The programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector. Below you will find the events on offer in Donegal:

Introduction to silk painting workshop

Location: Kokodesigns studio, Glen Lower, Ramelton, F92D6K0

Price: €45

Date & Time: Sat 23 Aug at 11:00 am - Sat 23 Aug at 1:00 pm

Join Karen O'Kane of Kokodesigns for a workshop in her own studio.

During the workshop Karen will introduce you to the art of painting on silk using a resist technique. At the end of the workshop you will have produced a silk painting to take home. All materials provided.

Kokodesigns Open Studio

Price: FREE

Date & Time: Friday 8th August, 10am-5.30pm, Friday 15th August,

10am-5.30pm, Friday 22nd August, 10am-5.30pm, Friday 29th August, 10am-5.30pm

Ever wanted to experience the life of a textile artist based in a studio in rural Donegal? Then you are very welcome to visit my open studio every Friday during August Craft month! During the open studio you will get to watch demonstrations of how I design and paint on silk to make my range of home ware. Come along to find out more about the work of silk and textile artist Karen O'Kane, Kokodesigns, whose colourful hand painted silk, inspired by beautiful Donegal, is hand-made into lampshades, lighting and soft furnishings.

For the full island-wide programme and to get involved and show your support for your local craft sector visit www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Southern Star

ballydehob@southernstar.ie

BALLYDEHOB

Folk fest

The fundraising pub quiz was deemed a great success with 39 participants competing. Festival organisers expressed thanks to event sponsors including The Copper Merchant, The Irish Whip, O'Brien Family, and Townhouse OD. Thanks was also extended to quizmasters, Margaret and Eugene McSweeney, who provided a fascinating, fun evening and to the community who supported the event.

Summer fest

The much anticipated Ballydehob Summer Festival will take place from Friday August 8th, when the first round of charades will be held in Ina Daly's, until Sunday August 17th when the grand finale fireworks display will take place at dusk.

Although activities, competitions and live music will be on offer Friday and Saturday, the official opening will take place on Sunday 10th at 8pm by TD Christopher O'Sullivan and a recital by the Skibbereen Silver Band. This will be preceded by the fancy dress and tractor procession at 7.45pm.

Live music and the charades competition will continue through the week with the semi-finals taking place on Thursday 14th.

A full programme of events is available at local businesses.

Craft month

Kilcoe Studios will celebrate August craft month by hosting a range of craft workshops that also celebrate heritage.

There will be workshops on whittling, patchwork, and basket weaving as well as exhibitions of handmade craft works in the studios located across from the Gala. For further information visit kilcoes-tudios.com

Champion

Congratulations was extended by the community of Ballydehob to Shane Crowley who won the U-18 All-Ireland Road Bowling Championship in Armagh.

Fastnet trails

The Fastnet Trails committee, founded in 2017 to develop, manage, and maintain recreational walk trails across the Mizzen peninsula and into Skibbereen have acknowledged the generosity of all those who contributed to its recent flag day in Ballydehob, Schull and Goleen. A sum of €1,706 was donated across

the three centres. These funds will be spent on trail maintenance, promotion, and the upkeep of the Fastnet Trails website. Some funds will also pay for employer's liability insurance to cover members and volunteers who monitor and maintain all 22 trails. A special thanks was extended to the volunteers who gave so freely of their time to make the collection day a success.

Crab fishing

The annual crab fishing competition sponsored by the Ballydehob Summer Festival will take place on August 9th at 2.30pm. Children of all ages are invited to bring

buckets and bait to the quay for a chance to win a medal for the most impressive catches of the day. Lifejackets must be worn while crab fishing, and parents must be in attendance to supervise their children.

Old boats

The annual old boat gathering, celebrating local maritime heritage, will take place on Saturday 9th. The flotilla of traditional sailing vessels is expected to arrive at the quay at approximately 4.15pm and there will be live music and a barbecue on the quay to welcome the sailors.

Summer fete

The Ballydehob Union of Parishes will hold its annual Summer Fete on Friday August 8th from 11am to 2pm in the Bank House Garden. There will be cakes, crepes, country produce, and books on sale with delicious refreshments available. A raffle will also take place to help raise funds for the parish.

Car boot

The monthly car boot and craft sale will take place on Sunday August 10th from 9am to 3pm in the environs of the community hall. Vendors may arrive from 8am to set up. For further information call Nora on 085 2287284 or Billy on 087 6842347.

Fancy dress

There will be a fancy dress competition for children and adults on Sunday August 10th as part of the summer festival parade.

Participants should come

Clare Champion

Artists getting crafty for the month of August

CLARE makers from around the county are getting involved this month in August Craft Month, which is Ireland's biggest celebration of craft.

The month-long programme from Design & Crafts Council (DCCI) and Craft NI features a host of exciting and eclectic events across the island in celebration of Ireland's unique craft sector.

Led by DCCI and Craft NI, the month features local makers such as the Clare Crafts Association and Jane Seymour to name a few, who will all be involved in the celebrations and events.

The exciting events on offer in Clare include the Clare Crafts Fair at Cultúrlann Sweeney, in Kilkee; this free event takes place all this week right up to Sunday, August 10.

Another Clare event partak-

ing includes a master workshop of surface decoration in ceramics at Gortavulla, Caher, which takes place Saturday, August 23.

The relaxed rural workshop will focus on graffiti, slip and oxide decoration on slab-built forms.

It is ideal for artists seeking to explore personal imagery and design on ceramic surfaces, and the price of the event includes vegetarian lunch and tea.

The Caher event is part of an exclusive series of hands-on masterclasses, sponsored by the DCCI, invites participants to explore various aspects of contemporary ceramic practice, from paper clay construction to porcelain slab work and experimental surface decoration.

Led by experienced artists in inspiring locations across Ireland, these workshops are

ideal for ceramicists, designers, and craft professionals eager to develop new techniques in a focused, small-group setting.

August Craft Month's programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector.

People are encouraged to come along and meet skilled artisans, find one-of-a-kind pieces, support local businesses, and experience the heart and soul of craftsmanship.

With more than 300 events and over 900 makers island-wide, including a vibrant programme of workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals, audiences can immerse themselves in local craft.

For more details visit www.augustcraftmonth.org.

Snapshot of results

Independent.ie

Festival of creativity 'Meath Made CREATES' returns to Trim in celebration of local businesses



Damien Spain of Frayne Woodcraft. Photo: DCCI

The Meath Made CREATES festival will return to Trim next weekend with the aim of celebrating creative businesses that are found in the Boyne Valley.

The event will take place in the Swift Cultural Centre from Saturday, August 16 to Sunday, August 17, featuring over 25 members taking part in 13 workshops, five demonstrations, and an art exhibition and a craft fair.

The Meath Made CREATES festival is part of a wider programme to celebrate August Craft Month with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCI).

MSN

Festival of creativity 'Meath Made CREATES' returns to Trim in celebration of local businesses

The Meath Made CREATES festival will return to Trim next weekend with the aim of celebrating creative businesses that are found in the Boyne Valley.

The event will take place in the Swift Cultural Centre from Saturday, August 16 to Sunday, August 17, featuring over 25 members taking part in 13 workshops, five demonstrations, and an art exhibition and a craft fair.

The Meath Made CREATES festival is part of a wider programme to celebrate August Craft Month with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCI).

The festival kicks off with an opening exhibition on Friday, August 15 at 6.00pm, offering visitors a chance to meet, mix and mingle with the creative community whilst perusing the exhibition.

All the pieces at the exhibition will be available for sale and guests can commission works from their favourite artists

A long craft fair from 10.00am to 5.00pm will be held on Saturday and Sunday where over 23 crafters will sell their products.

Visitors are encouraged to browse the selection on offer and learn more about some of the unique pieces that are available from all corners of the county.

Meath Made are keen to welcome in the public, not only to encourage people to think and shop locally but also to allow these talented creatives to tell the story behind their craft business.

A total of 13 creative workshops will run during the weekend for visitors to participate in weaving, painting, drawing, felting, paint a piece of pottery, and lots more.

From traditional methods to modern experimentation, highlights include: Weaving your own coaster of mini loom with Bréidín na Bóinne; Wet felting a bouquet of flowers with Caoimhe Tuthill of Boann Irish Felt; and lampshade making with Wren and Mabel.

Older children and teenagers can join in too by learning a new skill like upcycling a garment with the Japanese art of repair, creating a small lidded box in a ceramic workshop, or trying portraiture with paper and pencil.

Chair of Meath Made, Anita Reynolds said: "Last year was the first year and we were blown away by the response from the public - the interest in workshops from both locals and visitors was amazing and shows here is a real hunger for experimental type events."

Clare FM

Clare Makers Get Involved In August Craft Month



Photo (c) Clare FM

PODCASTS MORNING FOCUS

August Craft Month is back! Ireland's biggest celebration of craft. This year, Clare is playing a vibrant part in the festivities.

Throughout August, audiences can enjoy workshops, exhibitions, open studios and fairs, with over 900 makers from across the island taking part.

Snapshot of results

Meath Chronicle



Members of Meath Made with harpist Jennifer Leahy.

A festival of creativity for all returns to Trim this August

Meath Made CREATES, a festival of creativity, is returning to Trim this month with a fun-filled, weekend-long festival for young and old, celebrating all things creative.

CREATES, which is taking place in the Swift Cultural Centre, runs from 15th-17th August, featuring over 25 members taking part in 13 workshops, five demonstrations, an art exhibition and a craft fair, as Meath Made celebrates the wonderful palette of creative businesses that are found in the Boyne Valley.

The festival is part of a wider programme to celebrate August Craft Month with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCI).

Drogheda Independent

A slice of Peru in Drogheda

A unique slice of Peru is coming to the heart of Drogheda this August, as local ceramic artist Adriana, the creative force behind Gatothor Cerámica, prepares to host an immersive ceramic mask workshop at The Watchtower at McHugh's on Saturday, August 16th at 4pm.

As part of August Craft Month, Adriana is the only Drogheda-based artist featured in this year's national celebration of crafts. Her workshop offers more than just hands-on clay work — it's a celebration of cultural identity, artistic expression, and community connection. Originally from Peru, Adriana brings a rich blend of Andean heritage and Irish influence to her work. "This workshop is about more than ceramics," she explains. "It's about sharing a part of myself — my culture, my story, and how Ireland has shaped my art."

Participants will learn to craft traditional-style ceramic masks, with insights into the cultural meaning of masks in Peruvian art and ritual. The event also forms part of Love Drogheda's Night Movements programme, highlighting the vibrancy of the town's creative scene after hours.

Adriana will be serving traditional Peruvian finger food. Spaces for the ceramic mask workshop are limited, and early booking is advised.

The Carrigdhoun



Deirdre Maxwell, & her dog Loftus, Monkstown, pictured at the Cork Craft Month Official Launch Party at Fota House, Co Cork. Organised by Cork Craft & Design, a social enterprise representing over 110 professional makers and artists, this milestone year sees the festival expand in both scale and ambition. Running throughout August, Cork Craft Month — presented in association with the all-island August Craft Month initiative — offers 99 events ranging from hands-on workshops and artist talks to exhibitions, demonstrations, and family-friendly activities. All events are available to book at corkcraftanddesign.ie. Picture: Michael O'Sullivan / OSM PHOTO

Snapshot of results

The Journal.ie



WHAT WE DO

'I've learnt to listen to the material': The Mindful Maker on working with Irish wood

Paul Murphy, aka the Mindful Maker, tells us about his furniture journey. I am very proud of the collections I have created, including Mindful Heritage: milking stools and coffee tables; Mindful Chopping: chopping and serving boards, and Mindful Moments: candle and tealight holders. Some of my proudest moments have been completing commission pieces – especially larger kitchen tables and benches – family heirlooms to be part of family homes.

I am so proud to have stockists such as Avoca, Forest & Flock, Irish Design Shop, Joyce's Craftshop and Cork Craft & Design to name but a few.

I'm delighted to have exhibited in the Lavit Gallery, Fota House, St. Peter's Cork and at the National Design & Craft Gallery in Kilkenny, as well as at the Glucksman and Ballymaloe seasonal design fairs. I'm also pleased to be a recent graduate of Enterprise Ireland's New Frontiers Entrepreneurship Programme at the Rubicon Centre in MTU.

Being part of Cork Craft month, August Craft Month and the DCCI Made Local campaigns is always fantastic too. These do amazing work to promote Irish craft and design and to celebrate our rich culture of making.

Dundalk Democrat

Sarah McKenna celebrates 10 years of her iconic 'Home Comforts' collection

Michelle O'Keeffe

Ten years ago, Dundalk ceramicist Sarah McKenna created a small range of handmade pieces that quietly struck a chord with people.

She called it 'Home Comforts', and over the past decade, it has grown into a beloved collection that now lives in thousands of homes across Ireland and abroad.

This year, Sarah celebrates the 10th anniversary of 'Home Comforts', a milestone that honours both the evolution of her work and the emotional resonance it continues to hold.

Each piece in the collection is handmade in Sarah's 250-year-old studio in Dundalk and carries her

distinctive design signature: soft ceramic forms imprinted with vintage wallpaper, delicate letterpress words, and her now-iconic house motif finished with a glossy red heart.

The result is a range that feels nostalgic yet modern, a comforting presence on a hallway wall or kitchen shelf.

Over the years, 'Home Comforts' has become a go-to gift to mark big life moments: a wedding, a move abroad, a new home, or a simple thank you.

"It's the kind of collection people connect with," Sarah explains. "Every piece has a story, and people give them when words aren't quite enough."

Sarah has been creating handmade ceramics at

Bridge Street Studios in Dundalk for over 20 years, where visitors are welcome to drop in.

The gallery and shop are open Saturdays from 10am to 5pm, with online shopping and click-and-collect available.

To mark the tenth anniversary, and to coincide with August Craft Month, Sarah will host a special one-day event at Bridge Street Studios in Dundalk on Saturday 23rd August.

Visitors can explore archival pieces, preview exclusive new designs, and hear the stories behind the work, all set to music, with bubbles and cake to toast the occasion.

Sarah will be there in person and would love to

welcome both longtime collectors and new friends alike.

A Decade of Home Comforts take place on Saturday 23rd August from 10am to 5pm at Bridge Street Studios, in Dundalk.

The event celebrating the 10-year anniversary of Sarah's 'Home Comforts' collection is free.

Rooted in Irish craft traditions but made for modern living, 'Home Comforts' is a quiet celebration of what matters most — home, connection, and the everyday little moments that stay with us.

To see more of Sarah's work visit www.sarahmckenna.ie



Ceramicist Sarah McKenna

Irish Country Magazine

STYLE

Once a thriving industry that provided livelihoods across Ireland, especially for women in rural communities, Irish lace represents a unique blend of artistry, history and identity.

Bringing this traditional craft back into the spotlight helps safeguard centuries-old techniques from being lost to time, and Irish designer Olwen Bourke is doing just that. Olwen discovered her love for lace while living in London and feeling homesick. Researching the material gave her a sense of home and the more she learned, the stronger her love for the history and craftsmanship of lace grew.

"I'm on a mission to help revive traditional Irish lacemaking techniques," she says. "During the 18th and 19th centuries, lacemaking was a booming industry in Ireland, but after the industrial revolution the demand for handmade lace began to decline. Today, this beautiful and highly skilled craft has almost completely died out in Ireland. I work with some of the few remaining women in Ireland who still make lace by hand, to create bespoke lace for my bridal and evening dresses."

"It's been fantastic to see Irish heritage textiles like tweed, linen and wool receive a lot of press and investment in recent years, but Irish lace has been somewhat forgotten. Handmade Irish lace is a highly skilled, beautiful art form steeped in history that should be protected for future generations, utilised by our fashion industry and promoted internationally."

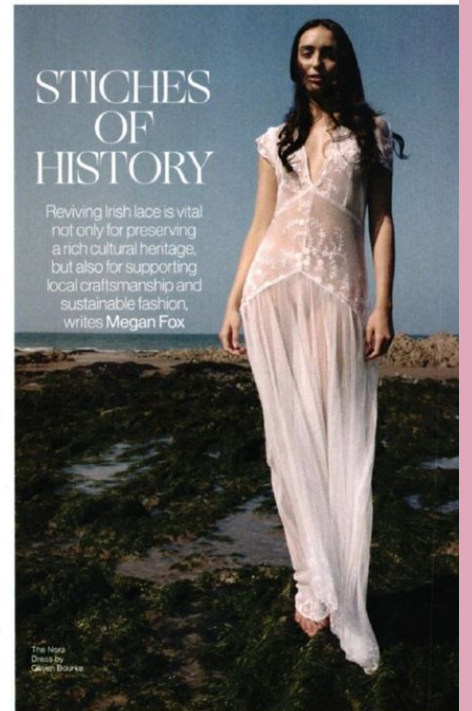
ONE OF A KIND

There are several distinctive types of Irish lace, each associated with specific regions. Carrickmacross lace, originating in Co Monaghan, combines needlework with netting. Kenmare lace from Co Kerry is a fine needlepoint lace introduced by nuns after the Famine. And there are others with their own unique style and craft.

Alexander McQueen, renowned for blending historical craftsmanship with cutting-edge fashion, was one of the designers who appreciated and incorporated traditional techniques like Carrickmacross lace into his work. Designers David and Elizabeth Finnan crafted the late Princess Diana's dress out of a romantic silk taffeta and Carrickmacross lace – again highlighting how beautiful this intricate fabric is for it to be part of one of the most famous gowns in the world.

STICHES OF HISTORY

Reviving Irish lace is vital not only for preserving a rich cultural heritage, but also for supporting local craftsmanship and sustainable fashion, writes Megan Fox



LOCAL REVIVAL

Another Irish creative on a journey to revive the tradition is Helena McAteer. After attending a Borris Lace workshop, Helena was encouraged, along with other attendees, to form a group and continue this beautiful craft in an attempt to revive it.

Borris lacemaking was originally established as a cottage industry by Lady Harriet Kavanagh of Borris House in south Carlow to relieve local poverty during the hardships of the Great Famine. In Borris lacemaking, a machine-made tape forms the pattern, which is then filled in with decorative needle-lace fillings. The patterns are based on natural shapes found in the Blackstairs Mountains.

Borris Lacemakers was formed in 2016 and is breathing new life into this unique craft. The group has gone from strength to

strength, presenting workshops, talks and exhibitions, while linking in with cultural events such as National Heritage Week, Culture Night and August Craft Month.

"We have produced a beautiful starter pack, with everything needed to learn the basics of Borris Lace. Since 2022, the group has presented a Borris Lace in Schools programme to work with local students. There is a great sense of pride locally that lacemaking is alive again in Borris. The social aspect of Borris Lacemakers is also very important – chatting while we stitch and sharing creative ideas."

"For me and the other women, lacemaking makes us proud of our skill and our contribution to our local heritage. It is a slow but fine art, which in itself is meditative and relaxing. I would highly recommend lacemaking to anyone interested in needlework and craft."

Snapshot of results

The Argus

Sarah celebrates ten years of Home Comforts, Louth Fleadh winners and Thin As Lizzy at 30

handmade ceramics at Bridge Street Studios in Dundalk for over 20 years, where visitors are welcome to drop in. The gallery and shop are open Saturdays from 10am to 5pm, with online shopping and click-and-collect available.

To mark the tenth anniversary, and to coincide with August Craft Month, Sarah will host a special one-day event at Bridge Street Studios in Dundalk on Saturday 23rd August. Visitors can explore archival pieces, preview exclusive new designs, and hear the stories behind the work, all set to music with bubbles and cake to toast the occasion. Sarah will be there in person and would love to welcome both longtime collectors and new friends alike.

Louth winners at Fleadh

Talented young musicians from Louth were among the thousands of competitors from around the country who travelled to Wexford for the 2025 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann recently.

As well as enjoying the wonderful atmosphere at this celebration of traditional Irish music, song and dance, they did the county proud, bringing

home a number of prizes. Pride of place goes to the members of CCÉ, Dhún Dealgan who won an impressive six trophies.

Ryan Martin won first place in the harp slow airs 12-15 years, while Séamus de Faoite won first prize in the piano accordion over 18 years.

Other winners were Enda Dooley who was placed second in the mandolin over 18 and 3rd in the banjo over 18, while his sister Rachel was runner up in the harp slow airs over 18, and Lauren Carr, who was awarded 2nd place in the 15-18 Flute Slow Air.

Dáithí McCann, CCÉ, An Boinnín But, Louth, came 1st in the English singer men under 16, and Méabh Ní Éiligh, CCÉ, Cú Chulainn, Louth was

undark ceramicist Sarah McKenna is celebrating the tenth anniversary of a range of popular pieces that quietly struck a chord with people and can now thousands of homes across Ireland and abroad.

The Home Comforts collection has grown to be her most popular range and has become a go-to gift to mark big life moments: a wedding, a move abroad, a new home, or a simple thank you. "It's the kind of collection people connect

with," Sarah explains. "Every piece has a story, and people give them when words aren't quite enough."

This summer, Sarah celebrates the 10th anniversary of Home Comforts, a milestone that honours both the evolution of her work and the emotional resonance it continues to hold.

Each piece in the collection is handmade in Sarah's 250-year-old studio in Dundalk and carries her distinctive design signature: soft ceramic forms imprinted with vintage wallpaper, delicate letterpress words, and her now-iconic house motif finished with a glossy red heart. The result is a range that feels nostalgic yet modern, a comforting presence on a hallway wall or kitchen shelf.

Over the years, Home Comforts has become a go-to gift to mark big life moments: a wedding, a move abroad, a new home, or a simple thank you. "It's the kind of collection people connect with," Sarah explains. "Every piece has a story, and people give them when words aren't quite enough."

Sarah has been creating placed second in the harp slow airs under 12.

Thin As Lizzy are marking their 30th anniversary with

Meath Chronicle

Meath crafters to celebrate creativity in Swift Centre

MEATH Made CREATES, a festival of creativity, is returning to Trim this week with a fun-filled, weekend-long festival for young and old, celebrating all things creative.

CREATES, which is taking place in the Swift Cultural Centre, runs from 16th to 17th August, featuring over 25 members taking part in 13 workshops, five demonstrations, an art exhibition and a craft fair - as Meath Made celebrates the wonderful palette of creative businesses that are found in the Boyne Valley.

The Meath Made CREATES festival is part of a wider programme to celebrate August Craft Month with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCI).

Meath's creative collective representing over 38 designers, makers and crafters, this year's event sees the CREATES festival expand to feature an exhibition showcasing work in paint, ceramics, textiles, mixed media and lots more.

The festival kicks off with an opening exhibition on Friday 15 August, at 6pm, offering visitors a chance to meet, mix and mingle with the creative community whilst perusing the exhibition. All the pieces at the exhibition will be available for sale and guests can commission works from their favourite artists.

On Saturday, and Sunday, the CREATES festival will host a day long craft fair (10am to 5pm), featuring over 23 crafters, selling their products. Meath Made are keen to welcome

in the public, not only to encourage people to think and shop locally but also to allow the public to connect with makers and have a chance for these talented creatives to tell the story behind their craft business, explain the creative process and help consumers understand the benefits of sourcing locally made products.

The craft fair affords people a chance to look, touch and feel the products and understand the quality of skill that goes into making each piece, all of which are unique and made to last.

Some 13 creative workshops will run during the weekend in the Swift Cultural Centre. Young and older can participate in weaving, painting, drawing, felting, paint a piece of pottery, and lots more.

This year, CREATES will again offer a huge variety of hands-on workshops which signals a strong shift toward participatory experiences that connect the public directly with the makers and the making process. For visitors who wish to watch, look and listen to the creatives there are five demonstrations taking place, showcasing pottery throwing, crocheted lace, weaving a sugán chair, traditional sign writing and live portraiture with a sitter.

From traditional methods to modern experimentation, highlights include weaving your own coaster on mini loom with Breidín

na Bóinne, wet felting a bouquet of flowers with Caoimhe Tuthill of Boann Irish Felt, lampshade making with Wren and Mabel, hand painting a sign with gold lettering with Megan McDermott to creating positivity pebbles with Rebecca Maguire.

One of the highlights of the weekend is the Meet the Makers Talk with this year featuring internationally acclaimed fashion designer and creative director of UPA Kidswear, Vaida Rasciute. Vaida is a long time Trim resident and will speak of her creative journey, founding her UPA Kidswear brand and the years of creativity that brought her idea to reality.

The full schedule is now available to view and book on the Swift Cultural Centre website.



Vaida Rasciute, creative director and designer at UPA.

The Avondu

August Craft Month events continue this weekend

MATT QUINN

An introductory workshop for those who want to try felting with local raw sheep's wool, will be held this Sunday, August 17th in Mitchelstown's Forrest Hall from 10am-12pm.

Forrest Hall in Mitchelstown has become a hub of creativity and crafts for the national celebration of August Craft month, which has hosted events such as a creative stitch-

ing workshop for well-being, taught by the textile artist, Daiva Stasiukynaite. The event was organised by the Lithuanian Arts and Craft Group and supported by Cork County Council Community Arts. Participants were invited to find the deep connection to themselves and immerse in creative stitching with Daiva's intuitive guidance through various steps.

While on August 31st there will be a willow weaving workshop, organised by Elaine

Feely, where participants will make their own bird feeder.

IN FERMOY

In Fermoy, The Blackwater Valley Makers opened the celebration of August Craft Month by inviting guests to see the process of making wool slippers by Zivile Zeniauskaitė of Zen Felting, sweater knitting by Miriam Ford Slow Knits and box making by Arthur Cronin.

All workshops are listed in augustcraft-month.org website



Zivile Zeniauskaitė pictured in the process of making wool slippers. (Pic: Saulius Comber)



At Blackwater Valley Makers' premises in Fermoy recently, Zivile Zeniauskaitė (seated) is pictured with, l-r: Maria Dowling, Lotte Bender, Siobhain Steel, Arthur Cronin and Miriam Forde. (Pic: Saulius Comber)

Snapshot of results

The Galway Advertiser

Explore the rich history of lace with Lásadóirí na Coiribe

Lásadóirí na Coiribe, a group dedicated to Irish lacemaking, has grown from its humble beginnings with five members in a five-week course to a thriving community of twenty members over seven years.

The group's core mission is to foster the learning and preservation of this intricate art form. They meet regularly, specifically at the Connemara Coast Hotel, to share their passion for various Irish lacemaking traditions, including Limerick, Carrickmacross, Mountmellick, Irish

Crochet, and Youghal needle lace. Through exhibitions and community engagement, they actively promote the beauty and heritage of Irish lace.

As part of August Craft Month, and supported by The Design and Craft Council of Ireland the upcoming exhibition "Stories in Lace" invites visitors to explore the rich history, intricate artistry, and cultural significance of lace-making through time.

Showcasing both traditional techniques and contemporary interpretations, the

exhibition highlights the delicate craftsmanship passed down through generations.

"Stories in Lace" weaves together personal narratives, historical context, and visual beauty, offering a unique opportunity to reflect on heritage and creativity through the fine threads of lace. Come and meet the Lacemakers. Bigli Linn

The event commences on Sat 23 Aug at 10:00 am and concludes on Sun 24 Aug at 5:00 pm at Teach an Pharóiste, Na Forbacha, Gaillimh. H91P02V



The Dublin Enquirer

Things To Do: Read the Evening Herald's letters section, mail order a drama, and rejoice as Smithfield Square gets used for a whole weekend

August Craft Month, Dublin Makers

August Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft returns this year, with more than 300 events from more than 900 craft makers across the country, including workshops, exhibitions, open studios and festivals.

Among the events in Dublin, there is a Celtic tweed tour at Balbriggan Retail Park on Tuesday, 30 September, a woodturning workshop at the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre in Naul on Saturday 23 August and a family felting workshop at the MART Studios in Harold's Cross also on 23 August.

For the full island-wide programme and to get involved visit the Craft Month website [here](#).

Dundalk Democrat

Louth ceramicist Sarah McKenna celebrates 10 years of her iconic 'Home Comforts' collection

Ten years ago Dundalk ceramicist Sarah McKenna created a small range of handmade pieces that quietly struck a chord with people.



Ceramicist Sarah McKenna

The gallery and shop are open Saturdays from 10am to 5pm, with online shopping and click-and-collect available.

To mark the tenth anniversary, and to coincide with August Craft Month, Sarah will host a special one-day event at Bridge Street Studios in Dundalk on Saturday 23rd August.

Visitors can explore archival pieces, preview exclusive new designs, and hear the stories behind the work, all set to music, with bubbles and cake to toast the occasion.

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Ireland Live

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Irish Independent

Sarah celebrates ten years of Home Comforts, Louth Fleadh winners and Thin As Lizzy at 30

Margaret Roddy look at the Dundalk art scene



It's time to Build Your Future! Louth's Leading Light Sarah McKenna invites women from all across Louth to take part in National Women's Enterprise Day, a free online event on 7th October. Visit www.localenterprise.ie/nwed to register.

Dundalk ceramicist Sarah McKenna is celebrating the tenth anniversary of a range of handmade pieces that quietly struck a chord with people and can now thousands of homes across Ireland and abroad.

The Home Comforts collection has grown to be her most popular range and has become a go-to gift to mark big life moments: a wedding, a move abroad, a new home, or a simple thank you. "It's the kind of collection people connect with," Sarah explains. "Every piece has a story, and people give them when words aren't quite enough."

Kildare Now

Here are some August Craft Month events happening in Kildare

This year August Craft Month returns with a packed programme of over 300 events from more than 900 makers across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland



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With 26 craft disciplines represented there is something for everyone, of all ages, and all levels of expertise to experience, support, make, see and buy stand-out local craft.

August Craft Month celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across the island still use and share them today.

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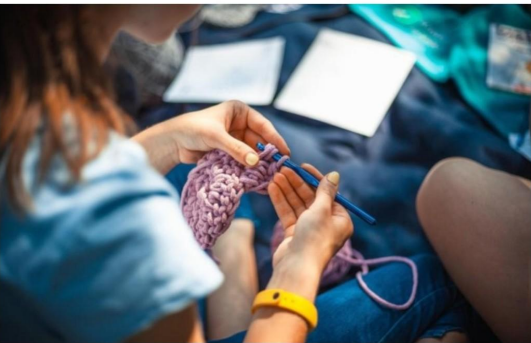


Image from Pixabay

By **Daragh Nolan**
20 Aug 2025 4:10 PM



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Local makers such as Angelina Foster and Tamzen Lundy, will all be involved in the celebrations and events,

Dundalk Democrat

Sarah McKenna celebrates 10 years of her iconic 'Home Comforts' collection

Michelle O'Keefe

Ten years ago, Dundalk ceramicist Sarah McKenna created a small range of handmade pieces that quietly struck a chord with people.

She called it 'Home Comforts', and over the past decade, it has grown into a beloved collection that now lives in thousands of homes across Ireland and abroad.

This year, Sarah celebrates the 10th anniversary of 'Home Comforts', a milestone that honours both the evolution of her work and the emotional resonance it continues to hold.

Each piece in the collection is handmade in Sarah's 250-year-old studio in Dundalk and carries her distinctive design signature: soft ceramic forms imprinted with vintage wallpaper, delicate letterpress words, and her now-iconic house motif finished with a glossy red heart.

The result is a range that feels nostalgic yet modern, a comforting presence on a hallway wall or kitchen shelf.

Over the years, 'Home Comforts' has become a go-to gift to mark big life moments: a wedding, a move abroad, a new home, or a simple thank you.

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Ceramicist Sarah McKenna

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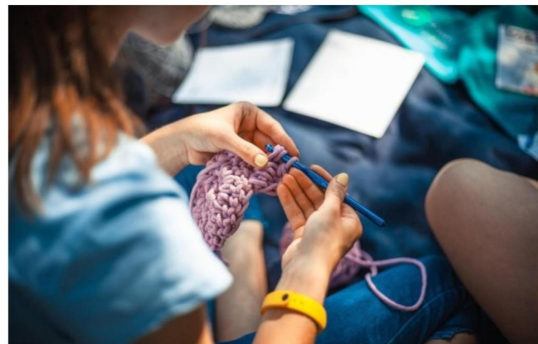


Image from Pixabay

By **Daragh Nolan**

20 Aug 2025 4:10 PM



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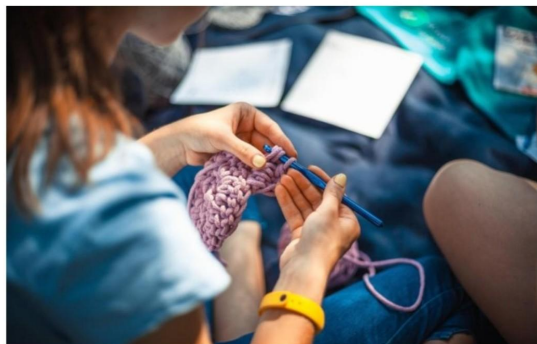


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Kerry Eyes

Kerry crafters celebration

AUGUST CRAFT Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, features a range of events taking place throughout Kerry.

August Craft Month celebrates craft traditions that are hundreds of years old, and the fresh, modern ways people across the island still use and share them today.

The programme provides unmissable opportunities to experience, participate in, support, buy and learn about the local stand-out craft sector.

Events on offer in Kerry include Excellence in Irish Ceramics at 21 Main Street Kenmare, a curated exhibition of the very best of Irish Ceramics, larger artworks commissioned exclusively for Mil Cove Gallery.

This exhibition will be on display to the 17th August, and celebrates the finest contemporary ceramics Ireland has to offer, bringing together a distinguished group of the country's leading artists, from delicate porcelain to bold sculptural forms.

Meanwhile in Tralee, a needle-felted Kerry Mountain is taking shape at 125 Rock Street.

This event is an opportunity to try the textile art of needle-felting, and participants will create a miniature felted picture of a mountain using wool roving on a felt background.

More info at www.augustcraft-month.org.

Snapshot of results

Galway Advertiser

Connacht Tribune

Leitrim Observer

Explore the rich history of lace with Lásadóirí na Coiribe

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Stories in Lace

Stories in Lace, or Scéalta i Lása, is the title of a new free exhibition taking place at The Priests House, beside Furbo Church this weekend August 23 and 24.

Corrib Lacemakers are mounting an exhibit on the building, and families are encouraged to attend.

It is being run in conjunction with Heritage Week and August Craft Month.

According to the organis-

ers, Stories in Lace is more than just an exhibition - it is a "living tapestry of history, heritage, and human connection".

"One of the most captivating elements of the exhibition is how it honours lace making as a skill passed down through generations. Visitors can trace the journey of techniques that have survived wars, migrations, and cul-

tural shifts - each stitch and thread carrying the wisdom of ancestors and the creativity of modern hands," they said.

One of the standout features is the emphasis on making lace making accessible to everyone through interactive demonstrations.

More information from augustcraftmonth.org

The Leitrim Design House National Awards and upcoming events 2025

In celebration of twenty-five years - sustaining and nurturing creative Irish businesses - The Leitrim Design House National Design, Craft & Art Awards Event & Exhibition takes place on Friday 15th August 2025. The afternoon will begin with reception drinks at 4.30pm, followed by the main event at 5pm and announcement of the first prize of €2,500 will be presented for the best overall submission. The winner of this award will also be invited for a solo exhibition in 2026. A specially commended prize of €1,000 will be awarded to a runner up. The high number of quality submissions received is a testament to the immense skills and creative talent in Ireland today. A shortlist of ten makers will exhibit their limited. For more information visit www.leitrimdesignhouse.ie or call 071 9650550. The Leitrim Design House issued an open call to makers, artists and designers from across the island of Ireland to respond to the theme of sustainability. Following an evaluation by our independent judging panel, the winner of this award will also be invited for a solo exhibition in 2026. A specially commended prize of €1,000 will be awarded to a runner up. The high number of quality submissions received is a testament to the immense skills and creative talent in Ireland today. A shortlist of ten makers will exhibit their work and share presentations on their inspiration and processes behind the pieces. The exhibition of work will be judged anonymously by five highly regarded industry professionals and experts including Eddie Shanahan, Mary Palmer, Una Burke, Deirdre McQuillan and Joe Lowe, Head of Enterprise, Leitrim County Council. The exhibition will continue until Saturday 13th September, with the exhibition will continue until Saturday 13th September. Also taking place in August are two exciting workshops as part of August Craft Month. On 8th August we welcome CycleUp Textiles for 'Make your own upcycled tote bag workshop' where adults will learn how to create their own unique tote bag using upcycled textiles. And on 21st August Helena Golden, Willow Woman, will facilitate a 'Willow bird feeder workshop' for children, where children will connect with the timeless craft of willow weaving, each participant will weave their own beautiful, functional bird feeder to take home. Both workshops are booked out but join our email list to hear about upcoming events. Opening hours are 10am - 6pm Mon - Friday and 10am - 5pm on Saturdays. Visit us in the beautiful Dock Art Centre, St. Georges terrace, Carrick-on-Shannon or online at www.leitrimdesignhouse.ie For further information follow us on www.facebook.com/TheLeitrimDesignHouse/



The Leitrim Design House Shop.

Snapshot of results

Southern Star (4 pieces)

Meet the Maker

As part of August Craft Month, the Courtyard Collective at Myross Wood House, Leap will host a Meet the Maker fundraiser for West Cork Animal Welfare Group on Sunday August 24th from 12pm to 4pm. Visitors can enjoy live demonstrations by local makers and artists, try out new skills, and sample tea, coffee and cake in return for donations.

Set in the beautiful grounds of Myross Wood House, it's the perfect chance to browse unique crafts, explore the gardens and woodland walks, and support a great local cause.

Courtyard Collective

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Meet the Maker

A Meet the Maker event will take place at Myross Wood House with the Courtyard Collective as part of August Craft Month and a fundraiser for West Cork Animal Welfare Group (WCAWG) on Sunday August 24th from 12pm to 4pm. Members will be demonstrating a range of techniques and invite people to join them and have a go and learn some new skills. There is also an invitation to walk around the walled garden or through the woodland, taking in the waterfall, and down to the water's edge. Dogs are welcome. Tea, coffee and cake will be available. For further information email info@cecas.ie or visit www.cecas.ie.

Meet the Maker

The Courtyard Collective is a group of talented makers, artists and designers based in West Cork who came together in 2023 to open a shop in the front rooms of the historic Myross Wood house in Leap. The shop sells lovely crafts and gifts including ceramics, textiles, skincare, original paintings, prints, goats' milk soap, knitwear, greetings cards, sculpture, jewellery and candles. The shop also

sells a range of soft toys to raise much-needed money for the West Cork Animal Welfare Group (WCAWG), so when it was decided to host a Meet the Maker event, it made sense to run it as a fundraiser for WCAWG. As part of August Craft Month, some of the collective members will be demonstrating a range of techniques from 12pm to 4pm on Sunday August 24th for anyone who would like to come along and learn some new skills. Tea, coffee and cake will be available with labelled buckets alongside for donations. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Snapshot of results

RSVP

Art class led Alice on path to become one of Ireland's most exciting textile artists

Alice Cummins first picked up a needle and thread at the age of 15, and now she's one of Ireland's most exciting textile artists



When Alice Cummins first held a needle and thread at the tender age of 15, she had no idea that it would lead her to become one of Ireland's most thrilling contemporary textile artists. However, something sparked in her school's art room that day – and it has remained with her ever since.

Dublin Live

School art room led Crumlin native on path to become one of Ireland's most exciting textile artists

Dublin woman Alice Cummins invites visitors to series of workshops to mark August Craft Month



When Alice Cummins first picked up a needle and thread at the age of 15, she couldn't have known that it would set her on a path towards becoming one of Ireland's most exciting contemporary textile artists. But something clicked that day in her school's art room – and it has stayed with her ever since.

"I was just lucky enough that we had a teacher at school that was into embroidery, so I got to try it out," she says. "I just loved it."

MSN

Art class led Alice on path to become one of Ireland's most exciting textile artists

Story by dublinlive Administrator & rsvp Administrator • 2w • 5 min read



Crumlin native Alice Cummins is one of Ireland's most exciting contemporary textile artists
© Reach Publishing Services Limited

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"I was just lucky enough that we had a teacher at school that was into embroidery, so I got to try it out," she says. "I just loved it."

"After school, I went and did a college course – I actually did a degree in hand embroidery. It's a pretty niche degree!"

Alice refined her craft at the globally acclaimed Royal School of Needlework in London, graduating in 2017 with a BA in Hand Embroidery. The traditional, detailed skills she acquired there have become the foundation of her creative practice – but she applies them in innovative, modern ways that connect with today's audiences.

Her career kicked off with high-profile commissions while still a student. She was chosen to work on pieces for the Nicholas Oakwell for GREAT Britain Campaign and was part of the team behind HBO's Game of Thrones Hardhome Embroidery, an impressive panel featuring the Night King and his army of White Walkers to celebrate the launch of Season Six.

Snapshot of results

Connacht Tribune

Connacht Tribune

Galway City Tribune



CRAFTY WORK

■ Group ensures the age-old tradition of lacemaking is kept very much alive

BY DARÁ BRADLEY
The craft of lacemaking is going strong in Galway – thanks to a dedicated group who meet weekly to preserve and honour the age-old Irish tradition.

Aine Hanrahan, from An Cheathrú Rua, began tutoring five people in lacemaking in what was supposed to be a five-week course.

Eight years later, the group has swelled to 20 and still meets to honour and preserve the art of lacemaking and Irish lace,” she said.

This was the group’s fourth exhibition. The first in 2020, in Clifden, celebrated 200 years of the introduction of Carrickmacross lace into Ireland.

Two years later, ‘A Glimpse of Galway Through the Eye of a Needle’ at the city’s Fisheries Tower depicted heritage sites of Galway, Conamara and Aran Islands.

Last year’s exhibition, in Áras Eanna, Inis Oírr, ‘Ar an Imeall’ (On the Edge), was inspired by the language, culture, and her-

itage of the Aran Islands.

For August Craft Month, in conjunction with “Wm” Heritage Week, they held another exhibition last weekend.

Scéalta i Lasa or Stories in Lace at The Priest’s House in Na Forbacha was described as a “living tapestry of history, heritage, and human connection”.

“We were telling the stories of our ancestors and celebrating lace. We are trying to help to

Group ensures the age-old tradition of lacemaking is kept very much alive



Eight years later, the group has swelled to 20 and still meets weekly in Connemara Coast Hotel.

Ms Hanrahan, chair of Corrib Lacemakers, said the group’s new exhibition in Na Forbacha was a huge success. It involved a piece of lace made by each of the group’s 20 members.

“It was fantastic. We had a steady flow of people all the time — we were amazed,” she said.

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Snapshot of results

Dundalk Democrat

The Heart of the Home: A Decade of Sarah McKenna's 'Home Comforts'

Local ceramicist Sarah McKenna celebrated 10 years of her Home Comforts collection with a special event at Bridge Street Studios.

The milestone was marked in style, as Sarah welcomed both new and familiar faces into her historic studio.

Visitors enjoyed music, cake, and bubbles while browsing her original creations and exclusive new designs, all created in Sarah's distinctive style featuring her iconic house motif and glossy

red heart.

The event was a joyful celebration of a collection that has found a place in thousands of homes across Ireland and beyond.

Sarah has been creating unique handmade Irish pottery for over 20 years in Bridge Street Studios, a 250-year-old grain store, on Bridge Street in Dundalk.

She creates custom and personalised pottery works for her customers, with options ranging from wall art, vases, plates, and platters, to

candle holders, lamps, and bowls.

As part of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of her Home Comforts Collection, Sarah held an event during August Craft Month, where she opened her studio to offer an exclusive insight into her creative process and the stories behind her cherished collection.

On Saturday 23 August, she hosted a special event that provided a deeper look at the inspiration for her work. It featured imprints of

vintage wallpaper, letterpress text, and her signature house motif with a glossy red heart.

It was a unique opportunity to see where the magic happens and discover how each handmade piece tells a story, marking meaningful moments for homes across Ireland and beyond.

You can see more of Sarah's pieces on www.sarahmckenna.ie

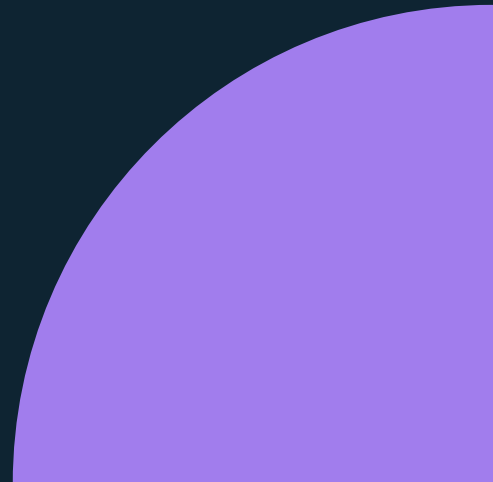


Avril Miller, Sarah McKenna & Rachel Tinniswood at Bridge St Studios PHOTOS: ARTHUR KINAHAN



Sarah McKenna with some of her work at the Bridge St Studios

Broadcast Coverage



Snapshot of results

Dundalk Fm



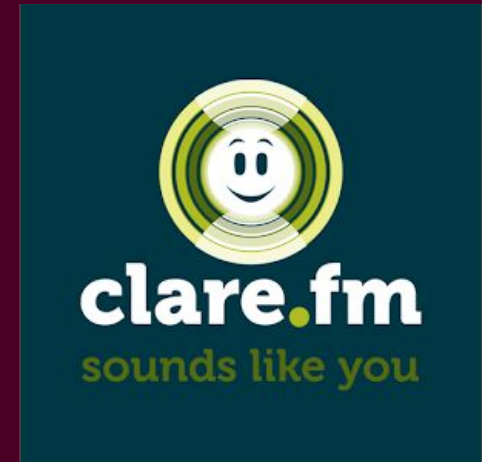
Three separate interviews with Adriana Torres Escobedo, Tracy Fry and Sarah McKenna

Belfast 89 Fm



Interview with Josh Lyness

Clare FM



Interview with Jane Seymour

Snapshot of results

Ireland AM



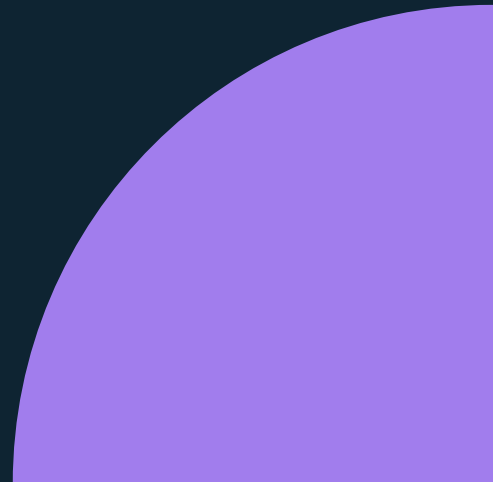
Interview with Meath Made creators- in introduction and main programme

Q102



Three separate interviews with Niki Collier, Alice Cummins and Amy Hassett

Influencer content



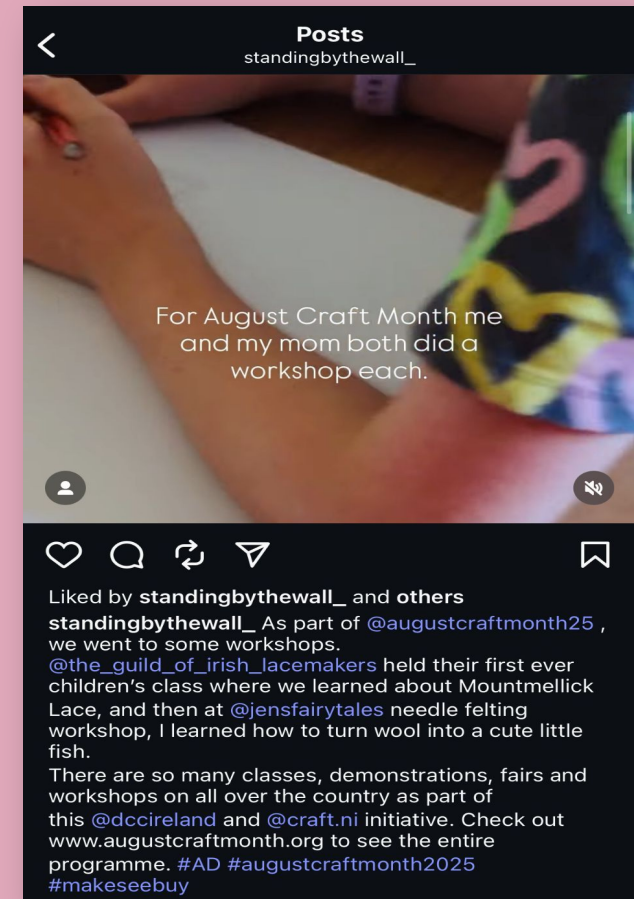
Snapshot of results

Sooby Lynch (@standingbythewall)



Snapshot of results

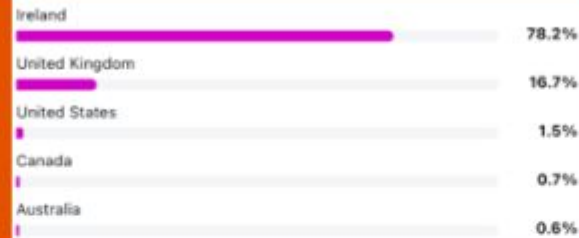
Sooby Lynch (@standingbythewall)



Summary of Influencer Insights

3,978

Views on Instagram Reel



Audience Geographical Insights

177

Engagements on Instagram Reel
*Likes, Comments, Saves

20

Sticker Taps and Link Taps
@craft.ni
@augustcraftmonth25
@jensfairytale

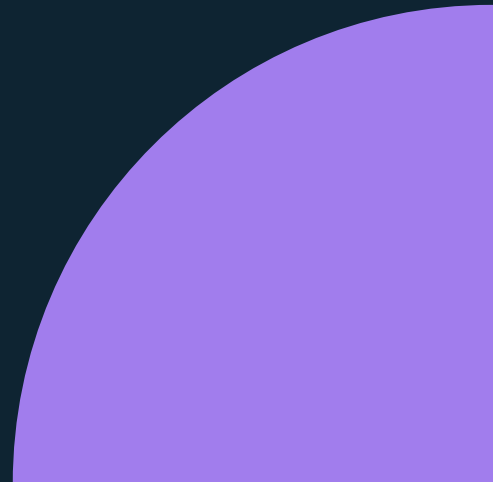
4,352

Total Instagram Story Views

29

Total Interactions on
Instagram Story
*Likes, Comments, Saves

Social Coverage



Snapshot of results



Snapshot of results

Louth Live Dundalk Democrat
@DundalkDemocrat

Louth makers get involved in August Craft Month

dundalkdemocrat.ie

Louth makers get involved in August Craft Month
Enjoy eclectic events in Louth across the month-long programme from Design & Crafts Council and Craft NI

Kilkenny Live
@KKPeopleNews

Kilkenny makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's biggest celebration of craft

kilkennypeople.ie

Kilkenny makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's biggest celebration of craft
Enjoy eclectic events in Kilkenny across the month-long programme from Design & Crafts Council and Craft NI

Louth Live Dundalk Democrat
30 July · 🌐

Louth makers get involved in August Craft Month



DUNDALKDEMOCRAT.IE

Louth makers get involved in August Craft Month

Louth Live Dundalk Democrat @DundalkDemocrat · Aug 3

Louth makers get involved in **August Craft Month**



Louth makers get involved in August Craft Month

From dundalkdemocrat.ie

Snapshot of results

Galway Advertiser @galwayad · Aug 14

Lásadóirí na Coiribe, a group dedicated to Irish lacemaking, will hold an exhibition in Furbo called "Stories in Lace" next week as part of **August Craft Month**

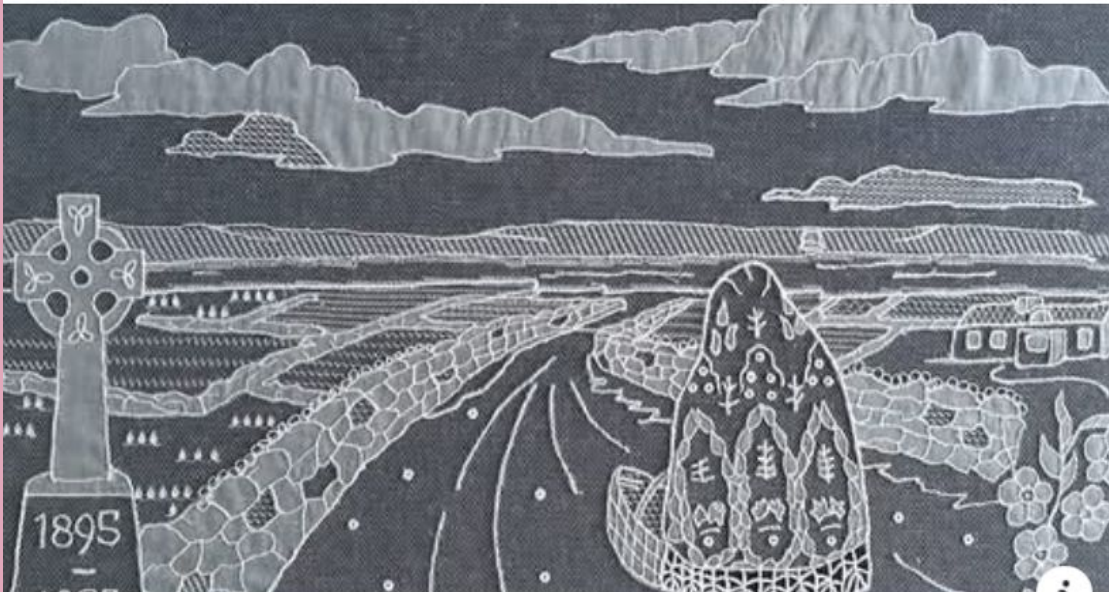


Explore the rich history of lace with Lásadóirí na Coiribe

From advertiser.ie

The Galway Advertiser
22 August at 15:00 · 🌐

Lásadóirí na Coiribe, a group dedicated to Irish lacemaking, will hold an exhibition this weekend titled "Stories in Lace" that invites visitors to explore the rich history, intricate artistry, and cultural significance of lace-making through time.



ADVERTISER.IE

Explore the rich history of lace with Lásadóirí na Coiribe

👍❤️ 11

4 shares

Snapshot of results

The Irish News @irish_news · Aug 31

2 Royal Avenue in Belfast is hosting a thought-provoking exhibition by Dundonald artist Andrew Cooke, whose latest body of work, *Animal Instincts*, will be on display as part of the all-island celebration that is **August Craft Month**.

Read more: tinyurl.com/3bmk2rur



Irish News
31 August at 09:14 · 🌐

2 Royal Avenue in Belfast is hosting a thought-provoking exhibition by Dundonald artist Andrew Cooke, whose latest body of work, *Animal Instincts*, will be on display as... [See more](#)



IRISHNEWS.COM

'I was good at art at school but didn't get to follow it through until now'

Snapshot of results

 **Strabane Weekly News** @StrabaneWeekly · Aug 31

Still time to enjoy **August Craft Month** events



strabaneweekly.co.uk

Still time to enjoy August Craft Month events

There is still time to enjoy the largest showcase of its kind on these shores as a number of events are stil...

 **Strabane Weekly News** @StrabaneWeekly · Aug 15

Getting creative for **August Craft Month**



strabaneweekly.co.uk

Getting creative for August Craft Month

AUGUST Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, has launche...

Snapshot of results



Snapshot of results

 **Kildare Now**
20 August at 16:08 · 🌐

Here are some August Craft Month events happening in Kildare



[KILDARENOW.COM](https://www.kildarenow.com)

Here are some August Craft Month events happening in Kildare



 **Leinster Leader / Kildare Live**
20 August at 16:17 · 🌐

Here are some August Craft Month events happening in Kildare

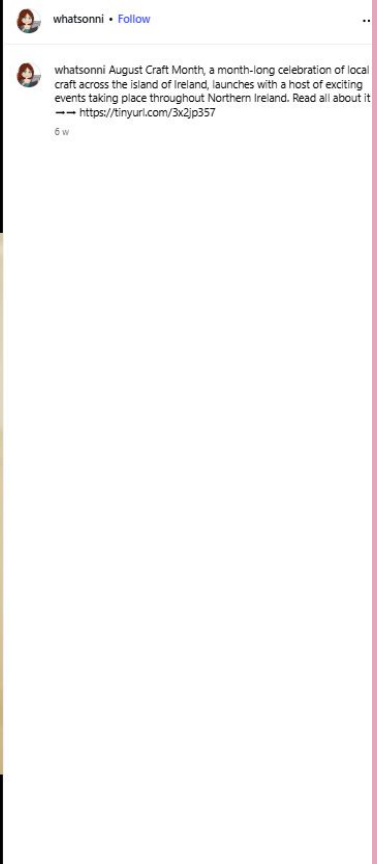


[LEINSTERLEADER.IE](https://www.leinsterleader.ie)

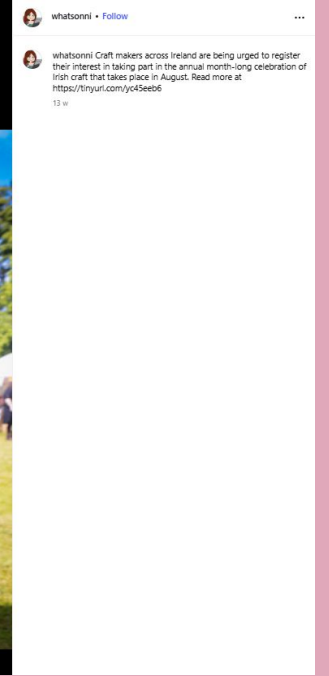
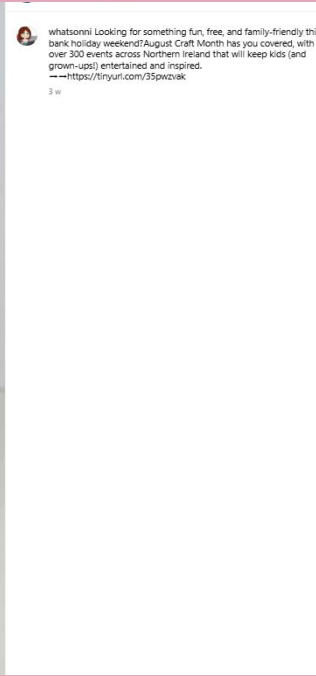
Here are some August Craft Month events happening in Kildare



Snapshot of results



Snapshot of results



Snapshot of results

Kilkenny Live
@KKPeopleNews

Kilkenny makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's biggest celebration of craft



Kilkenny makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's biggest celebration of cr...

From kilkenypeople.ie

6:02 AM · Aug 1, 2025 · 257 Views

Kilkenny Live
1 August · 🌐

Kilkenny makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's biggest celebration of craft



KILKENYPEOPLE.IE

Kilkenny makers get involved in August Craft Month, Ireland's biggest celebration of craft

Snapshot of results

 **Strabane Weekly News**
31 August at 15:00 · 🌐

Still time to enjoy August Craft Month events



STRABANEWEEKLY.CO.UK

Still time to enjoy August Craft Month events
There is still time to enjoy the largest showcase of its kind on these shores as a number of events ...

 **Strabane Weekly News**
15 August at 17:29 · 🌐

Getting creative for August Craft Month



STRABANEWEEKLY.CO.UK

Getting creative for August Craft Month
AUGUST Craft Month, a month-long celebration of local craft across the island of Ireland, has lau...

Snapshot of results



Snapshot of results





Thank you!