



Dear KIO Members and Friends

We hope that 2024 is going according to plan and that any NY resolutions have been revised and fine-tuned as appropriate.

KIO Corporate Restructure

The Keep Ireland Open team has been busy reorganising the corporate structure of the organisation and have registered all the relevant documentation with the Charities Regulator with a view to achieving status as a Charitable Organisation in the coming weeks. This will give KIO a proper footing for fundraising and access to government support. It also confers more rigorous discipline on Trustees and Directors - which should be a comfort to our members.

Updating the Law in Ireland

With the impending local & European elections KIO has been meeting and lobbying all political parties to recognise the gap that exists between legislation in Ireland and the general norm in other countries to preserve public rights of way. A major contributor to this lacuna is the perception in the minds of the Irish public that we have no inherent right to use traditional tracks to access hills, rivers, the seashore, or indeed heritage sites like cemeteries, in the countryside. This right is the norm in most European countries and many visitors remark about the proliferation of encountering recently erected gates, fences with barbed wire and notices that would be illegal in their own country.

Can you Help with KIO Social Media ?

As part of the general “upping-the-game” Keep Ireland Open are looking for volunteers to maintain and update our presence on Social Media platforms. If you are familiar with using Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter, TikTok or YouTube we would love to hear from you. The commitment would be no more than one hour a week. Please call or WhatsApp Tony on 086 832 7450 or eMail: webmaster@keepirelandopen.org

KIO Annual General Meeting – March 9th

Please note that the Keep Ireland Open Annual General Meeting takes place on Saturday, March 9th at 11am in Tailors’ Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8. Lucy McFarlane, former Rights of Way Officer in Shropshire, England is our special guest speaker. Lucy has worked in most aspects of countryside access. She has developed, promoted routes, enforced legislation, and investigated claims for routes to be recorded as public. In retirement she continues to use the rights of way network on foot and horseback with great enthusiasm and will talk at Keep Ireland Open's AGM about how the system works in England. Local politicians have also accepted our invitation to attend. You can see more details and book you free ticket on EventBrite [HERE](#).

While everyone is welcome to attend the AGM only paid-up members or their proxies are eligible to vote. If you are not already a member or if your membership has elapsed please join or renew [HERE](#).

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