

# Irish Independent

## That Simon Harris ard fheis address

THANK YOU all for choosing me as your new party leader. As you know, I've been even busier than usual recently, rushing around sorting out problems that have been left on my plate – thanks a bundle, Leo.

We face growing challenges, in housing, Sinn Féin, immigration and Sinn Féin. And some people out there will be only too ready to criticise me for my political principles, whatever they



are. But rest assured that I will bring forward a raft of new sensible gimmicks to reset our great party.

You are all probably asking: are there going to be any radical changes?

Well, the answer is, yes and no! Yes there are, and no there aren't. But the main thing is that I intend to hit the ground running.

(Delegates rush to bar.)

### Those new refugee accommodation proposals



Coalition will continue to fabricate housing stock

Leo Varadkar denying he was shown the door

Fine Gael struggling to remain a big tent party

Roof about to cave in on the Greens

No room for sentiment

Fianna Fáil desperate to shed Micheál Martin

### WHITE HOUSE GROWING MORE ANNOYED OVER GAZA

The White House has, in recent days, indicated a hardening of its stance against Israel's alleged genocide in Gaza.

"It's a very serious cause for concern and is keeping us all up at night," confirmed a spokesman for the administration. "Indeed, the President took half an hour to get to sleep last night and was cranky all the next morning. Israel must bear full responsibility for that!"



The spokesperson said that "Blinkin is going over there to wag his finger in the faces of whoever shows up at a crucial summit aimed at ending this human catastrophe before Christmas, or even sooner if everyone is dead.

"Thankfully the President did eat a full breakfast this morning so all is well for the time being anyway," he added.

### LET'S END ALL THIS AIMLESS SPECULATION

THE FAI's search for a new Republic of Ireland manager has dragged on too long so, over recent weeks, our ace sports journalists have indulged in an orgy of idle speculation about the identity of Stephen Kenny's permanent successor and the timing of his appointment. This hastily filled vacuum reflects very poorly on the FAI blazers.

Readers are aware that no story is too wild for our well-in-



formed hacks to repeat and hype, no ridiculous prediction too bizarre to be splashed across the back pages.

Even in the absence of a shred of evidence, the intrepid journo have been able to deliver the story, any story.

**Inside:** Is Luis Rubiales the right man for the job?

**Also:** Prince Harry and Meghan double act looks a winner for FAI (That's enough speculation – Ed.)

SIMON HARRIS  
**IRISH WISH**

"Vacuous" MARY LOU MCDONALD

"Mercifully short!" Pearse Doherty

**THIS SPOTLIGHT-CHASING DREAMER WAS STARTING TO WORRY THAT HE'D ALWAYS BE THE BRIDESMAID BUT NEVER THE BRIDE. NOW, AFTER YEARS SPENT TOURING THE COUNTRY LOOKING FOR LOVE, HE HAS FOUND OUT THAT SOMETIMES THE WILDEST OF DREAMS CAN COME TRUE...**

### DUBLIN & DERRY RESURRECT RIVALRY



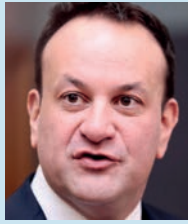
We're heading for an Easter mass –

– Brawl!

## All-purpose announcement for departing Fine Gael TDs

After a lifetime of public service since I was elected in 2020, the time has now come for me to seek a cushy job in either Brussels or the private sector. Unfortunately, throughout my time in the Dáil, there has been a coarsening of debate, with sickening abuse on social media – much of it directed by me towards my numerous political enemies.

Other deputies, meanwhile, have had no recourse except taking to their various anonymous accounts or savaging opponents



in off-the-record briefings to their media pals. The fear is that such a climate could lead to political visionaries like myself no longer seeking a career in politics, despite the massive salaries and pension perks on offer.

I am not looking for sympathy, merely pointing out that if high-calibre individuals no longer seek political office, we could end up with a frightening scenario where vital areas such as housing and health are a mortifying disaster.

(That's enough FG TDs – Ed.)

## World leaders react to Simon Harris taking over



The arm waving. Talking about the flag. References to blood and a great country. His speech to Fine Gael was straight out of my playbook. I predict great things for this man.

– Vladimir Putin



What? Leo's gone? Fiddlesticks. What

size socks does the new guy wear?

– Justin Trudeau



I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Kamala Harris as he takes over as leader of the Black and Tans in Ireland.

– Joe Biden

## Hate speech bill 'still alive', says McEntee

THE MINISTER for Justice has resisted calls to ditch the upcoming hate speech legislation, saying people do not feel safe in the country at present.

Ms McEntee told reporters: "I myself thought it was perfectly safe to bring in another vote-winning populist law – but following the recent referendum debacle, the Shinners and other enemies are now confusing everyone by raising awkward questions about what the word 'hate' actually means."



Meanwhile, incoming taoiseach Simon Harris accused Sinn Féin of cynically changing their minds on the new bill.

"They've done a shameless U-turn – unlike the Government, which always listens closely to people's concerns before

making essential adjustments to crucial legislation.

"I'm proud to say that we've successfully managed to persuade voters to stand firm in their view that we are hopelessly out of touch with public opinion."



UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

### NEW UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK COURSES

#### Media

How many times has the college been in the news in past fortnight?

#### Advanced mathematics

Just how do you overpay for a housing scheme by €5 million?

#### Geography

Can anyone find all these people declining to appear before public accounts committee?

#### Video game design

In-depth study of the ground-breaking PAC MAN.

## FINE GAEL PRAISE DUP

Senior figures within Fine Gael have thanked the DUP for taking attention away from Leo Varadkar's surprising decision to step down due to the shocking manner of Jeffrey Donaldson's resignation.

Said one FG source: "We were all left reeling by Leo's decision, with many questioning the stability of the coalition. However, we were

relieved to see that, as ever, we could count on the DUP to one-up us in a far more spectacular manner. Issues surrounding leadership within Fine Gael seem small fry in comparison.

"We would therefore like to express our sincere gratitude for their unfailing talent for self-immolation."

## LOUIS'S BIG BROTHER STRUGGLES

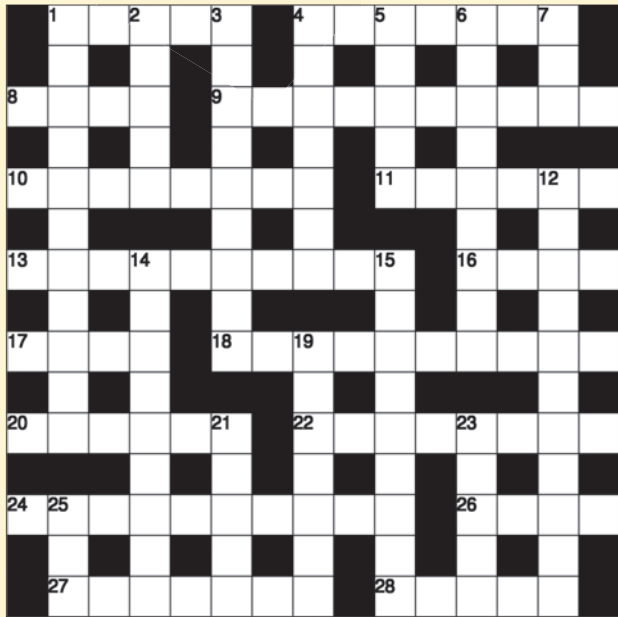


## THE ADVENTURES OF FESTY O'SEMTEX





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Crossword by Procrustes

**ACROSS**

- 1 Non-Christian god accepts silver, at least symbolically. (5)
- 4 Crashed car, wrecked boat, but can still do amazing tricks in the air! (7)
- 8 It sounds like you have run out of money while looking for a sexual connection in Piccadilly Circus! (4)
- 9 Incorrectly turned a flu, though mild, into such a claim for a very serious illness? (10)
- 10 By the sound of this, being cagey in short, wait for the answer. (8)
- 11 When involvement is extreme, ticks can make you sick. (6)
- 13 Beyond where commuter gets on or off, a very short section of line, is for going nowhere at all! (10)
- 16 I'm going around the boundaries of Islam's holiest city looking for a holy man. (4)
- 17 Locate old man from across the ocean and across the centuries in mountain cavern. (4)
- 18 Drunken antipodean takes part in wild party-time in Rome. (10)
- 20 By god, but when it comes to haute couture you'll find me clothed in hers! (6)
- 22 For country music, rewrite part also where Beethoven's Sixth Symphony comes in. (8)
- 24 Is miser not so upset at having to send children to one such school? (10)
- 26 That blooming girl is just not quite our type, almost but not quite. (4)
- 27 Army dining hall in a position with a view straight across - or, it is said, vice versa - to Calabria. (7)
- 28 Principal Brexiteer, though mixed up, hasn't lost his marbles yet, but may if Greece gets its way. (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Coming in to a little money, wild sibling shows it to continue to be trying. (11)
- 2 Wind up suddenly with nothing but keen enthusiasm. (5)
- 3 There's dastardly, wicked intent in our safe-breaking efforts. (9)
- 4 Read three short articles on mine explosion, leading to severe blood-loss, which, in turn, leads to this. (7)
- 5 See Giro leader in ride to high pass in mountains stage. (5)
- 6 Dancer is treated like queen initially in Mayo town. (9)
- 7 Sounds like Essen is symbolically the place where you can find it. And also in Cornwall. (3)
- 12 By using it I can see that before the race I have a fairly good poker hand. (11)
- 14 Does Matt seem a little upset with the other 14 guys wearing the same jersey at the Aviva? (9)
- 15 Could risky hero be torn apart there - by minor member of K9 unit? (9)
- 19 At session of AA, topic being dissected is not alcohol, nor, indeed, any kind of drink, but food. (7)
- 21 It upsets us, his fishy foreign food. (5)
- 23 Go up around, beat the rest and find it's due. (5)
- 25 Shows resistance to the first three letters of the French song, The Mountains of Mourne. (3)

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**Closing date: Fri 12 Apr**

**LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION:**

**Post only to: CROSSWORD COMPETITION, Phoenix Magazine, 44 Lr Baggot St, Dublin 2, Ireland**

**Across:** 1. Mired. 4. Bloomed. 8. Also. 9. Salutation. 10. Adjacent. 11. Deceit. 13. Scaffolder. 16. Rust. 17. Disc. 18. Abstemious. 20. Instal. 22. Humanoid. 24. Bloodsport. 26. Bone. 27. Pastors. 28. Cable. **Down:** 1. Malediction. 2. Rioja. 3. Desdemona. 4. Belated. 5. Opted. 6. Metacarpi. 7. Duo. 12. Insouciance. 14. Facetious. 15. Rheumatic. 19. Schools. 21. Lasso. 23. Nabob. 25. Lap.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Richard Booth, Harmonstown, Dublin 5

*Craic & Codology ... Craic & Codology ...*



**VARADKAR RULES OUT IRISH JOB**

Departing Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has ruled himself out of the running for the job of Irish soccer boss. One of the few public figures not to have been linked with the role, Varadkar said fans shouldn't expect him to be taking the position any time soon.



"I have no desire to take over another. Certainly, I became an acknowledged expert on the game when I was minister for sport - I particularly enjoyed Ireland beating New Zealand by 50 runs in Semple Stadium - but the role doesn't interest me at the present time. I'm holding out for something bigger in Europe - perhaps Real Madrid?"

"I've already helmed one bunch of journeymen on the road to oblivion," said Vlad.

**GUINNESS DRINKERS 'PAYING IN ADVANCE' AMID FEARS OF SUDDEN PRICE RISES**

Guinness consumers have taken to placing down-payments on future drinks to avoid the risk of being hit with fresh and unexpected price hikes by the time they are poured, according to a new survey. The drastic development comes after mega-rich distributors Diageo announced an unexpected and unpalatable increase in its range across Ireland's boozers for the



third time in just over a year. "Diageo are so unpredictable these days, who's to say there won't be another price hike during that lengthy wait for a pint of stout to settle," said a worried Guinness imbibers in a Dublin hostelry. "You can't predict when the kick in the arse will come and I can't afford to risk it. I fancy one for the road. Would you like to buy a kidney?"

**GAA APOLOGISE FOR DUBLIN V DERRY INCIDENT**

The GAA would like to apologise for the distressing scenes that occurred between Dublin and Derry. It has been brought to our attention that viewers were forced to sit through some 90 minutes of football before an almighty brawl broke out. This is unacceptable and we unreservedly apologise to all fans of mass violence who were forced to wait such a preposterous amount of time.

Scribble Box

# IRISH & INTERNATIONAL ONLINE ART

Bidding Ends Tuesday 9th April 2024  
Between 6.30pm & 8.30pm



**Evie Hone** HRHA (1894–1955)  
Composition



**Roderic O'Connor** RHA (1860–1940)  
Villas near the Sea, Cassis (1913)



**William Scott** CBE RA (1913–1989)  
Still Life with Frying Pan and Eggs (1973)



**Louis Le Brocqy** HRHA (1916–2012)  
Study Towards the Image of  
Samuel Beckett (1996)



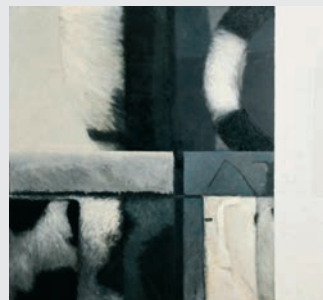
**Genieve Figgis** (b.1972)  
Portrait of a Lady (2013)



**Andy Warhol** (1928–1987)  
Ladies and Gentlemen II.135 (1975)



**Donald Teskey** RHA (b.1956)  
Union Hall, West Cork (2019)



**John Shinnors** (b.1950)  
Estuary Forms – Limerick



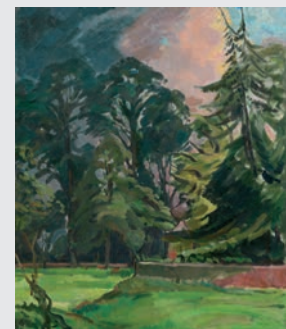
**Liam O'Neill** (b.1954)  
The Final Furlong



**Jack Butler Yeats** RHA (1871–1957)  
A Good Winner (1900)



**Sir William Orpen** RHA (1878–1931)  
Portrait of Mrs. Jessie Wertheimer  
(née Trautz) (1904)



**William John Leech** RHA ROI (1881–1968)  
Summer in the Park (c.1910)

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