

# THE IRISH TIMES

## Can Nature Restoration Law preserve the Green Party?

Ireland's Green Party was thrown a lifeline recently as the European Parliament passed the Nature Restoration Law, aimed at restoring lost ground.

The move comes as rapid changes to the political climate have seen the party being flooded by deluges of complaints from rural road users.

Said one party insider: "Furthermore, current farming practices - such as sowing discord in



rural Ireland and desperately wanting to turf us out - have made it clear that, without protection,

the Greens are headed for extinction."

Hopes within the party are that the Nature Restoration Law could help save this critically endangered species.

"The law itself is printed on 100% biodegradable paper created from mulched old Green Party manifestos and pamphlets," said a smiling spokesperson. "How can anyone betray our future by not liking that?"

### KEY POINTS FROM THAT BIDEN-TRUMP PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

- Foreign affairs:** Trump denies he's had any
- Defence:** Biden still tanking in the polls
- Economy:** Most Americans wish both men would retire
- Capital gains:** What those
- January 6 rioters** tried to do
- Energy:** Trump relying on white power vote
- Immigration:** Biden's re-election chances going south
- Guns:** Trump loss could trigger more violence

**RODERIC O'GORMAN EAMON RYAN PIPPA HACKETT**

"A real sleeper hit" **CATHERINE MARTIN**

"Took us all for a ride" **DANNY HEALY-RAE**

**THIS POLITICAL CLIMATE DENIER HAS MADE THE OVERDUE DECISION TO FINALLY GET ON HIS BIKE. NOW THAT HE'S RIDING OFF INTO THE SUNSET, WHO WILL LOOK TO OCCUPY THE WELL-WORN SADDLE?**

## THE BIKERIDERS

## Bridgerton sex scene fills space

IT'S THE latest romp-filled costume drama that's gripping the entire country. No wonder fans and media alike are hot under the collar as Nicola Coughlan portrays Penelope Featherlite in this masterpiece of love and loss (of trousers and dignity).

Said one desperate newspaper editor: "At this time of year, there's nothing happening - apart from the usual wars, of course - so we were delighted to get something sort of raunchy to put

on the front page, and an Irish lass too!"

But there has also been criticism of the series, with one viewer posting on X: "What a let-down! The latest episode had not even six minutes of soft core, side-frontal, female-friendly nudity astride the luxurious chaise longue."

Netflix immediately apologised, however, saying: "This was an unfortunate one-off that we will rectify from now on with even more scenes of naked greed."

## FAMOUS FACES REACT TO TAYLOR SWIFT'S IRISH GIGS

**Michael McGrath**  
You can't help but admire this shameless diva who's hoping to make a fortune in Europe before the public mood sours on them. But that's enough about yours truly. While I'm not as musically gifted as Miss Swift, I do have an incredible talent for blowing my own trumpet.

**Simon Harris**  
Taylor Swift and I have so much in common as we are both responsible for thousands of

children living in hotels for extended periods. If I have one criticism of her though it's that she doesn't work as hard as I do to get fawning media coverage.

**Mary Lou McDonald**  
Unlike my crowd, the Swifties will always turn out in massive numbers and would never go bleating to the media that her performances need to improve. I would also like to borrow her vocal coach for a while because people keep saying I'm hopelessly out of tune.

## MCGRATH'S EU COMMISSIONER HOPES

I'll be heading to Europe shortly

Presumably by Ryanair



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

## That Neil Jordan memoir

EXCLUSIVE EXTRACTS FROM EGOMANIAC

PEOPLE DON'T understand the sheer weight of artistic trauma I experience – which means I'm forced to constantly empathise with myself.



Hollywood shared my suspicions about this movie mogul monster, who turned out to be a tight-wad as well as a predator. But he did produce my movie, so he got some things right.

I remember Spielberg begging me for advice with Jaws. "I desperately need help, Neil," he pleaded. "You're the greatest director of all time – a Bergman of the human psyche." For a mediocre film-maker, Steven was an excellent judge of character. The Harvey Weinstein years were harrowing. Nobody in

I also recall Graham Greene acknowledging my genius: "You are the undisputed maestro of word and image, whose brilliant novels are totally superior to Leonardo da Tolstoy's War and Peace." (That's enough Egomaniac – Ed.)

## Reaction to Rory McIlroy's US Open breakdown



Mary Lou McDonald

"The media need to give him a break. Anyone can fall at the final hurdle!"

the sweeter. Cheers, Big Ears!"  
Nigel Farage



Kevin McStay

"He is just following a trend of epic losing that Mayo GAA first made sexy. A choker and a copycat!"



"When people write you off, it makes the comeback all

## NATURE RESTORATION PREDICTIONS



## O'Leary slams loudmouth CEOs

In his latest headline-grabbing broadside, Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary has called for mouthy business CEOs to put a sock in it. In his 25th consecutive interview yesterday, O'Leary suggested that certain business figures were too in love with the sound of their own voices.



airline fares, passports, Aer Lingus strikes, the stupidity of those running Dublin Airport and God knows what else. If I did that, I wouldn't have the time to turn Ryanair into undoubtedly the

"I myself am quite reclusive," said O'Leary. "It's appalling the way these guys sound off about

greatest low-fares airline the world has ever known – which is exactly why they all need to put a sock in it and not spout rubbish every time a mic is placed in front of them."

## Aer Lingus's striking reductions!



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Crossword by Procrustes

**ACROSS**

- 1 Taking potluck, to turn away requires a certain amount of courage. (5)
- 4 Falls for a rag in a torn condition between two nations. (7)
- 8 Was Westminster lawmaker among eleven who formed part of the attackers at Rorke's Drift? (4)
- 9 Berating offspring of fleeced one for leading piece of crooked sharp practice on some poor sucker. (10)
- 10 Her Eurovision hit having been sung, Dana rearranged it for an audience of Africans. (8)
- 11 It's good to give something to eat with sole maybe, but also to include something to wipe sole on. (6)
- 13 Locals accept offer from those who ply them with drink. (10)
- 16 In the name of God, northern writer symbolically rejects gold. (4)
- 17 Expose a really nasty, treacherous character among Mafia goodfellas. (4)
- 18 Being bent, we call boys cruising the NYC streets offering rides, though we have to pay them! (6,4)
- 20 Having passed fifty, give a drunken cheer for the dirty old man, though 'old' part is not obligatory. (6)
- 22 Disgracefully harped on at poor kid without either parent being present or even available. (8)
- 24 Influence of CIA on aid distribution is studied closely by a keen specialist on the matter. (10)
- 26 Suffer a catastrophic mood swing? (4)
- 27 Avarice is about as good an answer as you can get as to why such wheels turn smoothly. (7)
- 28 Minus eight in other words? (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Editing German poet has a fruitful outcome, at least in a seedy sense. (11)
- 2 On campuses of UCD, UCC, UCG and Maynooth, no disruption leads to a merger. (5)
- 3 Beautiful fjord in west, when shifting around 45°, becomes beautiful place in south-west. (9)
- 4 How Eastern people might welcome a saint in name only. (7)
- 5 In the appropriate situation in the US, a prosecutor can bend a bit. (5)
- 6 Sufferer might be prone to both a breathing problem and a nervous disorder. (9)
- 7 Bottom half of canopy is given away for a stiff bristle to a botanist. (3)
- 12 Seeing foreign exchange in academic book could be a finding that would cause a bit of bother... (11)
- 14 ... also the inclusion of a Swiss registered car can cause more than a bit of bother, by gum! (9)
- 15 It's a sign Poles may be dangerous as they crawl around in crops so, take care! (9)
- 19 How cat spotted that old writer has turned up smothered in fat! (7)
- 21 Digs in earth looking for dismembered torso. (5)
- 23 You can hear it as Opel starts to follow another German car. (5)
- 25 In which case it can be hard to see why Labour leader abandoned whip. (3)

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Closing date: Fri 5 July

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION:

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

**Across:** 1. Rumen. 4. Parties. 8. Scot. 9. Tea-clipper. 10. Appraise. 11. Couple. 13. Contribute. 16. Each. 17. Firm. 18. Nose to tail. 20. Eyes up. 22. Oral exam. 24. Democratic. 26. Prig. 27. Flensed. 28. Salon. **Down:** 1. Reciprocity. 2. Motor. 3. Nutrition. 4. Plateau. 5. Relic. 6. Imprudent. 7. She. 12. Laceration. 14. Tombstone. 15. Entrances. 19. Shouted. 21. Paris. 23. Expel. 25. Elf.

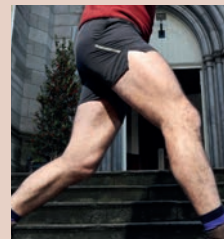
LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Ann Duignan, Newbridge, Co Kildare



...whether we qualified or not is irrelevant, we choose to identify as a country that did."

## Latest Paul Mescal fashion tips

ACTOR AND icon Paul Mescal turned stomachs ('Heads', surely - Ed) at Milan Fashion Week yesterday wearing skimpy boxers and Gucci loafers, in that order. The *Normal People* star told reporters: "This is not a publicity stunt. I just want my picture in the papers."



most important influencer in Irish haute couture.

"Having worn figure-hugging GAA shorts since 2020, I see myself as a pioneer of sustainable fashion. I'm clearly not worried about

how ridiculous I look," Mescal explained.

Mescal has frequently set pulses racing when seen out and about in London and New York in the latest micro gym clothes. He is now hailed as the

"And when it comes to publicising my new *Gladiator* film, I'll wear anything to outdo those countless pics of Barry Keoghan in the nip."

## Summer's shortest reads

- **The Art of Maintaining Composure** by Rory McIlroy
- **My Media Blackout** by Michael O'Leary
- **My Disinterest in the EU Commission** by Michael McGrath
- **The Decisiveness of the FAI** by John O'Shea
- **Standing up for Palestine** by Ursula von der Leyen

## Government unveils new equine produce guidelines

- Greens are dead meat at the next election
- Coalition will continue to flog a dead horse on housing
- Nobody riding to Stephen's
- Donnelly's rescue
- Simon Harris giving Helen McEntee the cold shoulder
- Michael McGrath getting ready to bolt

Scribble Box