

## Seaside town's fish and chip rivals are both winners on awards night

Two Anstruther chip shops have scooped prizes at the Scottish Fish & Chips Awards.

Both Anstruther Fish Bar and The Wee Chippy picked up awards at Monday night's ceremony in Glasgow.

Anstruther Fish Bar was named the people's choice for fish and chips in Scotland.

Commenting on its Facebook page yesterday, the chippy said: "Last night we picked up the People's Choice Award at the Scottish Fish & Chip Awards and we are over the moon.

"A massive thank you to our incredible team who work tirelessly every day to bring you the best fish and chips.

"Their passion and dedication have made this achievement possible.

"Of course, this wouldn't have been possible without you, our loyal customers and supporters. Your continued support,



Prizes for Anstruther Fish Bar and The Wee Chippy.

smiles, and love are what drive us.

"This award is as much yours as it is ours."

The Wee Chippy was named the best fish supper in the east of Scotland, with staff member Kelvin being highly commended in the best fish fryer category.

On their Facebook page, they said: "We were in a tough category with some

amazing competition. So an amazing win for the team.

"A big thank you once again to a fantastic staff and all our loyal customers. You wouldn't believe how much we appreciate you all."

The award wins come after YouTuber Rate My Takeaway declared the Anstruther Fish Bar "the best" in Scotland.



BLOCKED: Fife Council aims to keep gullies clear to reduce the risks of flood damage.

# Boost to gully cleaners fleet in flood fight

BY DANYEL VANREENEN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Fife Council cleaned 26,637 gullies last year as part of efforts to fight flooding.

The total is about 6,000 more than the previous year but nearly half the 48,386 gullies that it tackled in 2021-22.

The figures were presented to councillors on the environment, transportation and climate change scrutiny committee yesterday as part of a roads and transport annual service report.

Gullies are part of Fife's water management and drainage system. There are both natural and engineered ones across the kingdom, and Fife Council has a cleaning schedule to ensure rain and water can drain freely to prevent property damage.

However, the number of gullies cleaned has fallen by 45% since 2021-22 – a decline blamed on the equipment the teams use.

"A lot of our fleet is ageing," officers explained to councillors.

"Our gully tankers are

about 10 years old and prone to breaking down."

Head of service John Mitchell said: "Sometimes gully tankers are out of work or broken down and there is a backlog in terms of the maintenance of our fleet operation."

However, councillors were told Fife has recently acquired two new gully-cleaning motors. "They are actively working for Fife at the moment," officers said.

"Percent-wise what we're now able to do is probably higher than what we could with the old machines. I'd like to hope that over the next two to three months we can get a lot more done

According to Mr Mitchell, the council is also building a digital platform where the public can find out when gullies in their area were last cleaned and when they are next scheduled for maintenance.

He also assured councillors that Fife takes a "risk-based approach" and machines visit locations of acute flooding issues more often for priority cleaning and maintenance.

"I'd like to hope that over the next two to three months we can get a lot more done

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Beaulay-Denny 400kV Upgrade Project

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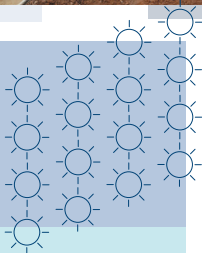
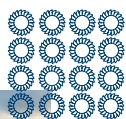
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# Holyrood to restrict trans toilet access

BY KATRINE BUSSEY

A decision by Holyrood bosses to ban trans people from using the toilets of their preferred gender at the parliament will leave them excluded at the “heart of Scotland’s democracy”, equalities campaigners have warned.

The Scottish Trans and Equality Network hit out after the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, which makes decisions on the accommodation at Holyrood, announced the

permitted use of “all facilities designated as male or female” will be based on “biological sex”.

It comes in the wake of the recent landmark Supreme Court ruling which made clear the terms “woman” and “sex” in the 2010 Equality Act “refer to a biological woman and biological sex”.

Holyrood Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone said: “As Scotland’s legislature, it is vital that the parliament fulfils its legal responsibilities.

“Our officials therefore took immediate steps following the publication of the judgment to review it in detail and to consider its implications for services and facilities at Holyrood.”

In an email sent to those working at Holyrood, she said from Monday May 12 the parliament would “provide male-only and female-only facilities as well as gender-neutral and accessible facilities”.

Ms Johnstone added: “We believe it is important to take these interim steps



NEW RULES: Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament Alison Johnstone.

now not only to ensure we fulfil our legal responsibilities, but to give clarity to all those using the building. Such clarity is an important element in offering all individuals confidence, privacy and dignity when using our facilities.”

But the Scottish Trans and Equality Network branded the move “rushed, unworkable and exclusionary”.

Scottish Trans manager Vic Valentine said: “If banning trans women from

women’s toilets and trans men from men’s toilets turns out to be a genuine requirement of the recent Supreme Court judgment once the statutory code of practice is in place, then we do not expect parliament to ignore or to flout the law.

“But we do expect parliamentarians to be honest and to show leadership when laws are clearly unjust, and cause harm to groups of people.

“We cannot understand why this decision has been described as one that will

bring ‘confidence, privacy and dignity’ to everyone.”

A Scottish Parliament spokesperson said: “Holyrood provides a wide range of facilities so it is an inclusive and welcoming space for all. The Supreme Court’s ruling had an immediate effect in law and after careful consideration the SPCB announced interim steps to ensure it fulfils its legal responsibilities. This included taking into account EHRC’s interim update to organisations.”

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Monday 12 May 2025,  
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Kynachan Hall, Tummel  
Bridge, Pitlochry, PH16 5SB

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200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH  
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PICTURE: GARETH FULLER/PA WIRE

## Actor and dementia activist West dies surrounded by family

Casey Cooper-Fiske  
scotsman.com

Actor Timothy West, known for many roles in television and the theatre, has died peacefully in his sleep aged 90 “with his friends and family at the end”, his family said.

West, who was married to fellow actor Prunella Scales for more than 60 years, starred in television shows such as comedy drama Brass, sitcom Not Going Out and soaps Coronation Street and EastEnders.

In a statement, his children Juliet, Samuel and Joseph said: “After a long and extraordinary life on and off the stage, our darling father Timothy West died peacefully in his sleep yesterday evening. He was 90-years old.

“Tim was with friends and family at the end.

“He leaves his wife, Prunella Scales, to whom he was married for 61 years, a sister, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. All of us will miss him terribly.”

West and Scales, 92, who played Sybil Fawley in Fawlty Towers, appeared in the documentary series Great Canal Journeys between 2014 and 2021, which saw them travelling on narrowboats together.

The couple married in 1963, and have two sons, actor Samuel West, and Joseph West.

West was also married to actor Jacqueline Boyer from 1956 to 1961, and they had a daughter, Juliet West.

Paying tribute to West on Times Radio, broadcaster Dame Joanna Lumley, who campaigned alongside him to destigmatise dementia, as his wife Scales has had vascular dementia for over 20 years, said he would be a “huge loss to everybody”.

She said: “Timothy really will be a huge loss, obviously, to Pru, but I think a huge loss to everybody who came to love and respect them, not just the general public, but particularly those who live with dementia.”

Dame Joanna continued: “I think between them, Timothy and Pru did an amazing, amazing job of convincing people that dementia was not something that you should be always afraid of, but something that you could embrace and live with and live with well.”

In Brass he played ruthless self-made businessman Bradley Hardacre from 1982 to 1984 before returning for a third series in 1990, while in Not Going Out he played Geoffrey, the father of Lucy Adams,

Timothy West, with wife of 61 years Prunella Scales, died peacefully in his sleep

played by Sally Bretton. In Coronation Street he appeared in seven episodes in 2013 as Eric Babbage, while in EastEnders he played Stan Carter from 2014 to 2015.

During his career West also played former British prime minister Winston Churchill three times, in From Churchill and the Generals (1979), The Last Bastion (1984), and Hiroshima (1995).

In 2019, the Bradford-born actor played Private Godfrey in Dad’s Army: The Lost Episodes, a recreation of three missing episodes of the BBC comedy Dad’s Army.

Paying tribute, Lindsay Salt, director of BBC Drama, said: “Timothy West was an icon of British drama, and at the BBC we feel incredibly privileged that he was on our screens across the decades.”

Prior to acting, West had attended the John Lyon School and Bristol Grammar School, and worked as an office furniture salesman and a recording technician before becoming an assistant stage manager at Wimbledon Theatre in 1956.

3 portrayals of Winston Churchill

## Tug tragedy after safety ‘breakdown’

Lucinda Cameron

A tug capsized in less than ten seconds with the loss of two lives because of a “breakdown of the systems that should have kept them safe”, marine investigators have found.

The Biter capsized while towing the passenger vessel Hebridean Princess towards James Watt Dock in Greenock on February 24, 2023.

Tug master George Taft, 65 and deckhand Ian Catterson, 73, were unable to escape and their bodies were recovered from the vessel’s wheelhouse by Police Scotland divers the following day.

A Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) investigation found Biter was affected by “girting” forces and capsized because it was unable to reverse direction to oper-



Salvage teams at Greenock recovering the capsized tug

ate directly astern of the passenger vessel before the tug’s weight came on to the towing bridle.

When this happened a rope on the tug called the “gob rope” did not prevent it being towed sideways and the rope rendered.

Investigators also found an open accommodation hatch compromised the tug’s watertight integrity and limited the crew’s chance of survival as it was highly unlikely any air

was trapped in the wheelhouse when the vessel tipped over.

The MAIB investigation found the Clydeport marine pilot’s training had not prepared them to work with conventional tugs such as Biter.

It also found master/pilot and pilot/tug exchanges were incomplete and, with no shared understanding of the plan, the passenger vessel’s master and the tug masters were unable to challenge the pilot’s intentions.

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# Plan for 700 more beds in student accommodation gets the green light

**Fiona Dobie**  
scotsman.com

Plans for hundreds more student beds at a former college building in St Andrews in Fife have been approved despite concerns from local councillors.

A total of 703 more student beds will be added at the former Madras College Kilrymont site in the seaside town.

The proposals, from Scotsman Developments, to create the additional student accommodation came before Fife

Council's North East Planning Committee on Wednesday.

A total of 400 rooms for students are already completed or under way on the former school site and some residents and councillors fear this third phase of the development could overwhelm the residential area.

Local councillors expressed their disappointment that a previously approved proposal for housing on the site would not go ahead and instead the site will all become student accommodation.

SNP councillor Ann Verner said: "I'm really, really upset



An artist's impression of how the Madras College Kilrymont development might look

this has got this far. There's a housing emergency, but we're now talking about 1,100 students in one wee part. It's going to kill that part of town altogether."

The St Andrews councillor also raised concerns over the potential noise.

She said: "[A total of] 1,100 students going back from the students' union on a Saturday night are going to be one hell of a noise.

"They're in the middle of a residential area - that just seems a bit off to me."

Concerns were shared by fellow St Andrews councillor Jane Anne Liston, who made a motion to refuse the planning application.

She said: "I think it's over development. What we agreed before was 102 dwellings, which is something like 300 people. What we're hav-

ing instead is over 700 people. That's quite a different kettle of fish.

"If we add it together with the student accommodation that's already got permission, we've got over 1,000. That's just about the size of David Russell Apartments.

"If you imagine David Russell Apartments being plonked down in the middle of this area of St Andrews, surrounded by houses very close by, you perhaps get an idea of where I'm coming from."

Councillors heard that a management company would oversee the accommodation and there would be CCTV throughout the site.

Planning officer Sarah Hyndman said: "A requirement of the rental contract includes

student behaviour and sanctions if inappropriate behaviour occurs."

As well as the accommodation, the proposal was also to include storage space for 352 bikes encouraging sustainable transport links.

Liberal Democrat councillor Donald Lothian was in favour of the application, which

he described as "very attractive" despite the lack of mainstream housing.

He said: "It's not exactly what's been anticipated for many years, but as it stands, I think it's probably acceptable."

The developers say their plans will help address a shortage of purpose-built student accommodation in the town, while freeing up mainstream housing for residents.

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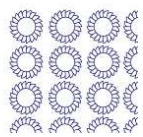


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**1,100** students in small area of town

## Mackay bid to become co-leader of Scottish Greens

**Rachel Amery**

Gillian Mackay has officially launched her bid to replace Patrick Harvie as co-leader of the Scottish Greens.

Last month Mr Harvie announced he would be resigning as co-leader of the party after 17 years in charge.

Since becoming an MSP for Central Scotland in 2021, Ms Mackay has pushed through legislation to ban anti-abortion protests outside healthcare critics and campaigned to get football matches free-to-air on the television.

She has also been a loud critic of the closure of the Grange-mouth oil refinery, resulting in hundreds of job losses in the region she represents.

Ms Mackay announced her intention to run outside the People's Palace in Glasgow yesterday.

She said: "Over the last four years, I've shown that I can deliver on many of the campaigns that I decide to take up and bring people together behind them, from safe access zones to rolling back the decision to cut school buses in North Lanarkshire.

"There are loads of other examples as well and I hope that people can see that I can get

things done and bring people together."

The Scottish Greens elect two co-leaders every two years, meaning those holding the top jobs have to fight to keep their positions every second year.

Lorna Slater, who is co-leader of the party alongside Mr Harvie, is also due to run again for the leadership this summer.

Since Mr Harvie announced his resignation, there has been media speculation that Ms Mackay and ally Ross Greer MSP would run on a joint ticket to become the two party leaders.

Mr Greer has yet to announce whether or not he will be standing in the leadership contest.