

fios as na bailtean**NORTH DELL**

CONGRATULATIONS to Donald and Sue Macdonald on the birth of their baby boy. William Donald was born on Tuesday 11th February and weighed 8lb 7 ½ oz. He is a grandson of William 'Tuileam' (see photo, below right) and the late Christine Macdonald.

HABOST

BEST WISHES to Joan Graham (Seonag Sheonaidh an Chlain) 22 Loch Street, formerly of 11 Habost, who is currently in hospital.

WE WERE SORRY TO HEAR about the death of Shona Drummond, Brighton, the daughter of John Drummond, 48 Habost. Our commiserations to John and the rest of the family at this difficult time.

EOROPIE

GET WELL SOON to Innes Macdonald, number 14, who had his appendix removed on Wednesday morning in Glasgow.

CROSS SKIGERSTA

HAPPY 96TH BIRTHDAY on February 8th to Seonag a'Phut, Joan Maclean, formerly of 38 Cross Skigersta Road, now resident in Blar Bhuidhe nursing home. Love from all the family.

PORT

IT IS WITH MUCH SADNESS we report that Dolina Murray (Dolag Sheonaidh, nee Morrison - bantrach a' Ghaisein) 19 Port passed away at the weekend at the great age of 94.

She was twice widowed, first in January 1952 when her husband John Macdonald (Iain Riasaidh - High St Skigersta) passed away aged 35 leaving her with a son, Angus John, and daughter, Margaret. In the mid 1950s Dolina married Donald Murray, 19 Port (An Gaisean) who had himself been widowed with two sons, Donald and Angus, after his wife, Annie, had passed away in September 1952 age 34.

Dolina and Donald then had a daughter Chris-Ann. In April 1997 Dolina was widowed for a second time

when Donald died suddenly at age 83.

We extend condolences to Angus John, Margaret, Chris-Ann, Donald and Angus and their loved ones at this time of sorrow. We also remember Dolina's surviving sister, Agnes, and her husband Richard. Another sister Catriona, predeceased them

Dolag will be fondly remembered by all who knew her and we extend sympathy to them all including those who helped the family in providing care at home and later in the Dun Berisay residential home.

The funeral service at Cross Free Church Continuing in North Dell was conducted by the minister Rev Greg Macdonald, assisted by Rev Angus Smith and Calum Maclean (Stornoway). A collection for Lewis Crossroads, who supported the family for many years, was taken at the end of the service. Following the interment at Habost, friends joined the family for refreshments and remembrance at Comunn Eachdraidh Nis.

**Lewis and Harris is 'top European island'**

IT WAS ANNOUNCED on Wednesday that Lewis and Harris has been named 'Europe's Top Island' by online international travel site TripAdvisor. Lewis and Harris beat Naxos, Greece; Gozo, Malta; and the Orkney Islands to first place. TripAdvisor compiled the list based on opinions of travellers who had visited the islands. This is deserved recognition for our island: a place of indescribable beauty and timeless scenery.

Angus MacNeil MSP commented on the accolade: "This is yet another fantastic accolade for Lewis and Harris who had its first documented visitor in 325BC, a Greek named Pytheas, who doubtless saw a better island than he was used to in the Mediterranean.

"Lewis and Harris has remained a well-kept secret ever since, with the impressive stones at Callanish, which are older than Stonehenge, the magnificent scenery of the Uig/Bernera area, where the Lewis Chessmen were found - the oldest chess set in the world - or the Castle at Amhuinnsuidhe at Harris or indeed the beaches and the Fjords of the East Coast from Harris to Lochs, TripAdvisor has to be congratulated for spotting Europe's top island.

"Lewis and Harris is a good place socially, Stornoway and Tarbert could almost be twinned with Galway in the West of Ireland for atmosphere. The most important thing to make a place is its people, who are both friendly and humorous in equal measure. This is a good recognition of the skills and welcome by those who work in the hospitality industry to those visiting the islands and I congratulate them for that. This is a real boost for everyone involved in the tourism industry, which continues to do a fantastic job in promoting our islands."

James Kay, TripAdvisor spokesman said: "An island holiday usually conjures images of faraway palm-lined beaches, white sand and crystal clear water but the results of this year's awards reveal that the ideal island getaway might be closer to home than you think."

Belize's Ambergris Caye was voted the number one island in the world for the second year running.

The Ambergris Caye is the largest of the Belize islands, featuring tropical rainforests and hundreds of limestone caves. It claims to have the largest coral reef system in the world.

Katie's Ness blog wins writing competition

KATIE MACLEOD'S BLOG about a day out in Ness, which was featured on the front page of Fios 398, came out on top in a national writing competition on the Holiday Hype website. Katie's entry received more votes than pieces about jaunts to exotic locales like the Algarve, Egypt, and Morocco.

Katie (pictured, below) spoke to Fios on Wednesday morning about her delight at winning the competition: "I was shocked - I never expected it to be so successful. I received some really nice comments and feedback on it from people too, so that was lovely to hear. I'll definitely be going on holiday with the prize, but I'm still deciding when and where to go."

Katie continued: "I'm absolutely delighted, and really thankful to everyone who voted for me. I must say how grateful I am to everyone who voted! I was amazed at the number of votes my blog post received, I never expected that, so I owe a huge thank you to absolutely everyone who voted for me. My blog ended up with 3020 votes, over 1000 more than the blog in 2nd place."

As the competition drew to a close, things started to get a little tense, as Katie explained: "I was a bit

nervous at first, as she (the second placed blog) was catching up quickly, but even if she had taken first place, I would have still been happy knowing that people had read and enjoyed my Ness travel tale, and had hopefully been encouraged to visit the area."

Fios would like to wish Katie all the best on her future travels and to thank her for the free tourism publicity she generated for the district.

