

1963 – Jan 10th Heather Blaze sweeps over Soay - last Friday the inhabitants of the island of Soay, turned fire fighters. The fire, the first which has occurred on the island in living memory is thought to have started when a lit match accidentally thrown away ignited the heather. Fanned by a strong north wind the flames roared across the moor. The glow could be seen in many parts of the Inner Hebrides.

The island's entire population at present is eight, Mr Geddes the proprietor was unwell and his wife and son fought hard to keep the fire away from the property. Major and Mrs Arthur who lives on the opposite side of Soay were no so seriously threatened. The island's third family Mr and Mrs Bomber and their children were on holidays in England. Mrs Bomber is better known as Lilian Backwith the authoress. The fire destroyed much grazing and will mean a hard winter for the islands stock of Shetland Sheep, ponies and goats.