

Cockburnspath & Cove Community



Newsletter



APRIL/MAY 2026



Siccar Point © Ian Kellie 2026

James Hutton was born in 1726 in Edinburgh into a well-respected family and received a good education. He had a particular interest in chemistry, but qualified as a doctor. He inherited two small farms in Berwickshire, at Nether Monynut in the Lammermuir Hills and Slighouses, near Chirnside. Rather than practising as a doctor, he took up farming for a time and concentrated on agricultural improvements. Travels in England and the Scottish Borders, on horseback and on foot, gave him insights into how landscapes, rocks and soils form. He was, as he said in a letter to Sir John Hall of Dunglass, “looking with anxious curiosity into every pit, or ditch or bed of a river that fell in my way.” He began to consider how quickly, or how slowly, the Earth’s processes took effect.

Once his farms were profitable, Hutton returned to Edinburgh and joined a wide circle of friends with whom he was able to exchange views on a variety of subjects in the intensely intellectual activity of the Scottish Enlightenment. Hutton undertook travels in Scotland with a geological purpose and gained a great knowledge of rocks, realising that geological processes happened very slowly over a long period of time. The thinking at the time, based on biblical data, was that the Earth was 6,000 years old, but Hutton realised that the Earth was very ancient and that, “with respect to human observation, this world has neither a beginning nor an end”, as he wrote in his first geological publication in 1785.

Siccar Point on the Berwickshire coast was the site where he became certain that his instincts were right. In 1788, with his friends John Playfair and Sir James Hall, he took a boat along the coast to find proof for his theory. Landing at Siccar Point, they found a junction of rock layers, with vertical greywacke beds overlain by nearly horizontal red sandstone strata, extensively eroded by the sea so that they could see the rocks clearly. He realised that the greywacke beds, originally horizontal, had been contorted by immense forces, by the process that we now know as plate tectonics, then worn down by erosion, with red sandstones deposited at a different angle above them. The evidence that those processes would have taken place over a long period of time convinced Hutton’s friends, one of whom wrote that, “the mind seemed to grow giddy by looking so far into the abyss of time”.

Since then, James Hutton has been revered by geologists and the concept of geological deep time has been studied and tested by scientists all over the world. Edinburgh Geological Society, with the assistance of the Scottish Geology Trust, has raised funds locally and nationally to improve the access and information available for visitors who want to see Siccar Point, using the new Deep Time Trail. Cockburnspath Village Hall will host a free exhibition on ‘James Hutton and Geological Time’ over the weekend of May 30th/31st, with family activities on a geological theme. Local geologists have devised a cycle route, beginning and ending in Cockburnspath, which links Siccar Point with James Hutton’s two Berwickshire farms. A James Hutton exhibition will be open at Paxton House throughout June and July. The Deep Time Trail at Siccar Point will be open on Saturday 30th May for the general public to explore, before James Hutton’s 300th birthday on Wednesday 3rd June. Further information about James Hutton and Siccar Point is available from leaflets available from Cockburnspath Community Shop and online at <https://james-hutton.org/>

In 2026 the world celebrates the 300th anniversary of James Hutton’s birth.

The title may seem to be rather an overstatement, but Siccar Point on the Berwickshire cliffs south of Cove, has been called the ‘Crucible of Geology’ and is an internationally known site of geological pilgrimage. James Hutton, local farmer and Edinburgh intellectual, has been called the ‘Father of Modern Geology’. In 1788 he took a boat from Dunglass Harbour with two friends and found, at Siccar Point, evidence that led him to write his book, ‘Theory of the Earth’, (an ambitious title) which laid out his arguments that the Earth was far older than anyone had previously considered. From this locality, ‘deep time’ as a concept has become accepted amongst scientists and changed how we look at the world.

Education and Training Fund News

Pilot Education & Training Fund Now Open for Cockburnspath & Cove Residents

Residents, local businesses, and community organisations in the Cockburnspath & Cove community can now apply for funding through the new Pilot **Education & Training Fund** — open all year round.

The Fund offers bursaries to help people access training and education that can make a real difference to their career prospects.


Who can apply? Individuals aged 16+, micro and small businesses, and voluntary organisations within the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council area.


What’s the aim? To help residents build skills and confidence to find or keep employment, support small businesses in creating or retaining jobs, and help those businesses grow sustainably.


How to apply? Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with no deadline — apply whenever the time is right. Contact your local community council for more information.


Latest Award Round News


The Cockburnspath & Cove Community Fund has approved funding for five exciting local projects, with a combined investment of **£36,837** to support local community projects that include:

 **Local Transport Planning — £2,000** Liftango will carry out demand-responsive transport modelling to better understand the travel needs of the Cockburnspath & Cove and East Lammermuir areas, helping to shape future transport services for residents.

 **Allotment Upgrades — £2,000** The Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO will use the funding for solar-powered batteries, lighting, a water pump, and ventilation — improving workshop facilities and extending the growing season sustainably.

 **Outdoor Play at Cockburnspath Primary — £18,549** The Parent Council has received funding to purchase new outdoor play equipment for the school, giving children a better environment to play and learn and support the long-term sustainability of the school and wider community.

 **School Trips Programme for Cockburnspath Primary — £7,200** A three-year programme of educational trips will give children access to cultural, creative, and recreational experiences — ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils.

 **Surf Therapy & Wellbeing — £7,088** Groundswell Community Project Scotland will run a one-year seasonal programme combining surf therapy, nature-based wellbeing, and community environmental action to support mental health, resilience, and environmental stewardship.

To apply for funding to support your project please visit the page or contact niome@foundationscotland.org.uk





Voices Heard, Futures Built: Exciting new playground improvements for Team Co'path!

The whole school community of Co'path Primary and Nursery School are delighted to share the exciting news that our Parent Council's recent funding bid to Foundations Scotland for significant playground developments has been successful. This investment will allow us to begin the transformation of our outdoor spaces into vibrant, engaging areas that support learning, wellbeing and play for all children.

Head Teacher, Rachel Foy explained, 'What makes this project especially meaningful is the role our children have played in shaping it. Their voices have been at the heart of this development, ensuring the space reflects what matters most to them. As Head Teacher, I am incredibly proud that this project reflects our strong commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. By actively seeking and valuing our children's views, we have ensured their 'Right to be heard - Article 12' is at the heart of this development. I hope that by seeing their ideas come to life, will reinforce the message to our children that their opinions are heard and valued, and that they can make a real positive difference to their school'



These ideas have been carefully designed and align with the Health and Wellbeing (HWB) strand of the Curriculum for Excellence. The new playground features will encourage active play, teamwork, creativity and resilience, helping children to develop both physically and emotionally in a safe and stimulating environment.

This investment is not just in equipment, but in the whole school family. Team Co'path is built on a shared commitment to inclusion, respect and togetherness, and these improvements will benefit every child now and well in to the future. The playground will be a space where friendships grow, confidence builds and happy memories are made.

We would like to thank our wider family group and community for their continued support. Together, we are creating a nurturing environment where every child can thrive, feel heard, and be proud to belong to Team Co'path, who really are a **team that aims to learn together... in order to grow, succeed and smile together!**

16th April: 7pm VH: AGM with potluck supper

Next meeting: 21st May 7pm: An evening with Jackie Sangster, Learning Manager at Historic Environment Scotland, on Scots Women Who Chose To Challenge.

Meetings are open to all SWI members and visitors are always welcome if they see a particular meeting the wish to join in.



**Allotments and
Community Gardens:
Plant Sale: 16th May from
11am**



What's on in Co'Path April/May 2026

Cockburnspath Community Café: Every Tuesday: 11-2pm in the Village Hall (VH).

We serve a range of hot and cold food, including freshly made Soup, Filled rolls, Cakes and Scones. Most weeks we have Jacket Potatoes which are always a firm favourite!

We are always looking for Volunteers, so if you are able to help with a cafe shift once a month, or with the baking please contact Sally Carroll on 01368 830482 or drop in to the cafe to see us!



Craft Club: Fortnightly: VH

Craft Club is one of the many Groups funded by the Community Council. A small donation of £1.50 is asked for each week to enable Craft Materials to be bought for any projects that are arranged.

Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits are included. You can join in the arranged activity, bring your own project or just come along to chat. It's on from 1-3pm on a fortnightly basis.

The dates for April and May are as follows 8th, 22nd April & 6th, 20th May. We look forward to seeing you there.

All welcome.

Artisan Craft Fayre (Village Hall Fundraiser): 25th April: VH

This is the first one for a few years. A range of Stallholders will be coming along including Textiles, Soaps, Candles, Knitting and Crochet, Jewelry, Fused Glass, Cockburnspath WI, Award winning local Shortbread, to name but a few. A Tombola and Raffle will be held (all donations are very welcome) to raise funds for the hall, and the Community Cafe will be open for the duration of the Event.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing the return of our Craft Fayres and hope to run others in the future.



Please see enclosed the April & May 2026 Calendars for a full list of events happening in village! (Please note, this was correct at time of publishing)



It was wonderful to see how supportive all the children were of each other. That alone – apart from all the varied talents in the show made it a fabulous event and a great reflection of the school!

Chair of Parent Council, Alice Blackwell



Aodhan and Leo's awesome Taekwondo skills to the Led Zeplin hit, "Stairway to Heaven".

“Co’path’s Got Talent” Shines Bright in a Celebration of Community Spirit!

Co’path Primary and Nursery School was alive with excitement on Thursday (26th March) evening as children, staff, families and friends gathered in the Village Hall for the much-anticipated “Co’path’s Got Talent” show! It was an unforgettable showcase of creativity, courage and community.

From the moment the lights went up at 6pm, it was clear this was no ordinary talent show. The event was a true reflection of the school’s core values of **kindness, respect, resilience and success** and every act stepping onto the stage, did so with confidence and pride, whilst achieving success in their own fabulously unique and wonderful ways!

A highlight of the evening was the dynamic hosting duo, our very own **Ant and Dec of Co’path, Mr Miller and Mr Wardle!** With their humour, energy and brilliant rapport, they kept the audience entertained throughout, guiding the show seamlessly from one act to the next. Their enthusiasm set the tone for an evening full of positivity and encouragement.

The line-up was bursting with variety, proving just how talented our Co’path children are. Throughout the evening the audience watched an exciting mix of acts, each bringing something unique to the stage.

Highlights included:

- 🎸 **Tone (aka Leo)** performing his own original song “Nuclear Fusion” on guitar
- 🎸 **The Bon Jovi’s** rocking the stage with “Runaway”
- 🌟 **Gymnastic Stars (Cloe & Ava)** as well as our very talented **Alesha**, dazzling the crowd with incredible routines
- 🥋 **Aodhan & Leo** showcasing their Taekwondo skills
- 🎹 **Kayla** delivering an emotional and powerful Adele performance on keyboard and vocals
- 🦇 **Raven’s ‘Greatest Show’ Diabolo Delights** bringing circus magic to life



Tone in action performing his original song “Nuclear Fusion”.

But what truly made the evening so very special, was the incredible **teamwork and community spirit** on show.

The children supported and cheered each other on from the sidelines, which filled families and staff with immense pride and joy. It was truly heartwarming to see the genuine kindness of our Co’path children on display, as it was simply effortless and completely natural, showing the REAL Co’path children that we all know, love and adore.

Our first ever “Co’path’s Got Talent” winner, Robson Carr, who sang the upbeat Michael Buble hit, “Don’t Blame it on Me”, said, “I felt very nervous when I first went on stage and then felt very excited!” The future looks musical, for Robson!

The night wasn’t just about winning, it was about **taking part, showing resilience and celebrating each other’s success**. Every single act on stage that night demonstrated their talents in abundance, their beautiful bravery and their sheer determination, embodying what it means to be part of **#TeamCo’path**.

“Co’path’s Got Talent” was more than just a show, it was a celebration of everything that makes the school so special. From the courage of the children to the families who cheered on every act with unwavering enthusiasm. The evening captured the very best of our Co’path Community.

It was a perfect reminder that at Co’path Primary and Nursery School, we are more than just a school, we are a community that doesn’t give up, that embraces creativity whole-heartedly and includes every single person that walks through their door. Together at Co’path, we celebrate every success, no matter how big or small, whether it’s just beginning or perfectly refined, because when everyone is encouraged to *Try Everything*, every single brave step becomes something truly unique and magical.

Here’s to many more nights filled with talent, teamwork and that unbeatable Co’path spirit!

FOLK CONCERT
AT THE
VILLAGE HALL!



Duns PlayFest ON TOUR!

On Friday 17 April in the Village Hall at 7pm (bar opens at 6.30pm), we have a delightful evening of entertainment, to include a play, some music and a film.

- Play: It’s Good To Be Bad by Tom Murray performed by local actor Jane Houston Green
- Play: What You Didn’t See by Cameron Ponder
- Music: From local musicians
- Film: The White Knight, a Wilson’s Tale adapted by Eloner Crawford

With a short story from our director John McEwen.

We will create our small touring Blackbox theatre for your audiences’ delight; the evening will be FREE to local residents and £10/5 for those outside of the DRONE postcodes.

The code DRONE26 will also give all local residents 50% off ALL Day Passes and Full Festival Passes at our full festival which runs from May 1 - 9! We will require a postcode from all residents applying for this discount for our funders to see the reach of the project.

More details of the full festival can be found on our website www.dunsplayfest.org.uk

COCKBURNSPATH BOWLING CLUB





Community Announcements

Thank you to everyone who supported our Church Coffee Morning in March. An amazing £649.50 was raised for church funds.

We are very grateful for all who baked, donated, prizes, helped on the day, bought raffle tickets and came along to enjoy themselves on the day!

Hope to see some of you on Easter Sunday at 11am for an all-age family friendly service at Co'path Church, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt!



Churchyard:

Please can you ensure you close the church gates when you leave the churchyard after a wander to keep it safe and clean.

There is a collection in the Community Shop for two of our long-standing members of the Community Council who have recently retired. Please visit the shop if you would like to donate to their retirement gift.

Please help keep our village clean.



Clean Village



Go and find a sough, and lean close to see if you can hear - listen to the waves: what do you hear? Sough, sough, sough...



Then listen to the wind in the trees or perhaps the breeze, and again you'll hear sough, sough, sough...

We're excited to share that in 2026, Groundswell Scotland will deliver two Sough & Sea programmes, supporting women and non-binary people to build wellbeing, resilience, and connection through surf therapy, nature, and community 🌊 🌿

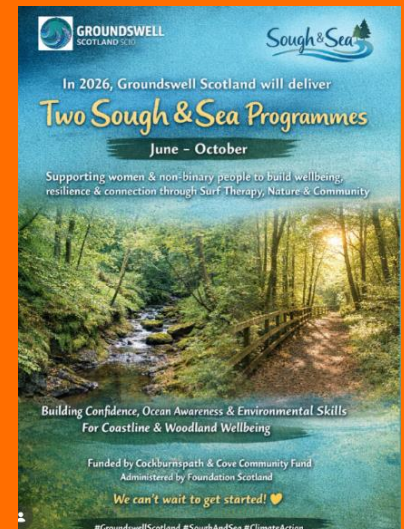
Running between June and October, across coastal and woodland settings, participants will develop confidence, ocean awareness, and environmental skills—while forming meaningful peer connections and deepening their relationship with nature. From trauma-informed surf sessions at Pease Bay to guided woodland therapy and sustainability workshops, each programme will create safe, supportive spaces for growth and empowerment.

Sough & Sea will continue to demonstrate the power of combining wellbeing with climate-positive action—supporting individuals while strengthening communities and care for coastlines and wild spaces.

2 programmes funded by Cockburnspath & Cove Community Fund, administered by Foundation Scotland at Pease Bay and Dean area, (each programme will have three sessions which includes surf therapy and conservation work)

We can't wait to welcome participants and grow this work together ❤️

#GroundswellScotland #SoughAndSea #SurfTherapy #NatureConnection #CommunityWellbeing #ClimateAction



For more information & updated news visit: www.copathandcove.com
Newsletter Contact Email: ccommunityhub@outlook.com