



REGISTERED CHARITY SC008741

# THE SUTHERLAND LONGHOUSE PROJECT

**“Fantastic”, “So glad I came”, “Really enjoyable!”**

Just a few of the many positive comments made by participants after attending Master Silversmith, Peter Rowland’s workshop on Saturday 11th January. The workshop was full (and with a waiting list!).

Peter began the event with a photo presentation and explanation of how he had melted down a selection of scrap silver, and then poured it into moulds to form ingots. He explained a bit about the tools he used and how he got the silver ready for shaping.



Peter set the context vividly, with fascinating stories and amusing anecdotes of silver extraction, famous silversmiths, how the trade and industry grew, and the journeymen who travelled the countryside, selling and repairing items of silver for people in the many towns and settlements.

Participants left the workshop not only having gained further knowledge of metal composition, the silver-smithing process and tools, but also with an insight into how life would have been for the smiths and the trade in pre-clearance times.

*We were left in no doubt: Pre-clearance times were most definitely not a period of isolation and lack of knowledge! Right: The finished spoon!*



Whilst working, Peter not only enthralled everyone with his superb silversmithing skills but also kept all present entertained with a humorous and informative commentary on the history of silversmithing, focusing especially on pre-clearance times.

*Of course, no workshop is complete without a good cuppa and a biscuit or two! Liberally supplied by Jaen*

