



From left: Anne Coombs, Karen Clarke, Barbara Morrison, Kerry MacKay and Adele Gallagher watching closely as Peter begins to 'grow' the spoon from the ingot. Picture: Peter Wild

Silversmith gets a gold star

It takes skill and knowledge to transform scrap silver into a silver spoon.

And six members of the public watched in fascination as master silversmith Peter Rowland demonstrated the process at a workshop on Saturday, January 11.

He used tools and techniques that have changed little over the years and would have been familiar to silversmiths in pre-Clearance times.

Mr Rowland began with a photo presentation showing how he had melted down a selection of scrap silver and then poured it into moulds to form ingots.

He then prepared the silver for shaping

and fashioned a beautiful spoon at the same time as giving a commentary on the history of silversmithing.

Participants gained a knowledge of metal composition, the silversmithing process and tools and also an insight into how life would have been for the smiths in pre-Clearance times.

The silversmith workshop and other workshops are being held as part of Historylinks Museum's Sutherland Longhouse Project researching different aspects of life in a pre-Clearance settlement. Visit historylinks.org.uk for further information.