

Concept by Karen MacDougall, working with staff from English Heritage, Northumberland Scouts and leaders, who are representing the county in Iceland, August 2023 and FV assistant Clare Forsythe.

Roman Frontier Voices were discovered in a visit to Corbridge Roman Town and Museum. The Scouts had been set various discovery challenges at the museum, were invited to handle real and replica Roman pottery which included a number of artefacts with faces. The museum session was led by Dr Frances McIntosh, English Heritage's Hadrian's Wall curator. There was also a rolling presentation about the project Frontier Voices. This provided the context for our creative project designing and making a face-pot which reflects your identity in some way. The Romans used clay for these but to celebrate their sheep rearing skills along the Wall that provided meat and fibres for clothing, this became a felting identity challenge!

There were 58 Scouts, with leaders to support, in 6 event shelters on a campsite about 45 minutes walk from the Museum. Unfortunately during the morning the wind blew the camp shelters down, damaging them seriously. This led to a very late start outside with only 2/3rds of the space. It was cold and rapidly became an endurance test! However the scouts tried really hard and succeeded in making face-pots, some of which are now on display at Corbridge Roman Museum and the rest at the Sill. After the exhibitions these will be auctioned to help raise funds for the Iceland International Camp 2023, when these modern frontier voices represent this area abroad.

