

Concept by artist Karen MacDougall. Postcards made by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of Allen Valleys Scouts, working with Karen, staff from Vindolanda and FV assistant Clare Forsythe.

We know that the Romans recycled and repurposed many things...deities, materials, tools, etc. Thinking about modern issues of climate change, recycling and repurposing we made paper postcards from Vindolanda's shredded paper waste and then wrote postcards relevant to today, inspired by the Vindolanda tablets. Roman Frontier Voices were discovered with a visit to the site at Vindolanda. The young people completed activities, visited the replica watchtower, listened to replica Roman musical instruments and explored the museum. They were particularly fascinated by the Vindolanda tablets, which provided first-hand evidence of real Roman people living at the Frontier and snapshots of their lives. They also shared in the story of the Frontier Voices project so far, its link to UNESCO core values, before creating and embossing metal 'identity' leaves for the art installation at the Sill.

Using shredded office waste from the Vindolanda Trust, and by 'shake, rattle and roll', we pulped, sieved and shaped it into rectangles and left it to dry. When the recycled postcards were ready for use, Barbara Birley, curator of Vindolanda, shared replicas of artefacts from the site, including the Vindolanda tablets, which we discussed. The participants were then challenged to write their own postcards as today's Frontier Voices - what would matter to them? shopping lists? texting friends? getting inside the heads of the Romans? This is their personal interpretation - their Frontier Voices - inspired by their visit to Hadrian's Frontier.

Karen then created the gateway. Roman milecastles had provided people access, as well as controlling goods and information flow, so here our Gateway gives us access to thoughts and ideas from the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of today.

