

The banner is designed to inspire the local community about their Roman heritage. The photograph shows one of the zoom calls in progress (photo by Sabine Lund).

The community of Altmannstein is one of six small, rural municipalities that cooperate as the „LimesGemeinden“ (Roman Frontier Communities) in the County of Eichstätt in Bavaria. Their aim is to preserve the heritage of the Upper German-Raetian Limes (the Roman land frontier in Germany), built by the Romans about 1900 years ago, and to make the Roman remains more visible and tangible for local people and visitors. Together with Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall, these Roman land frontiers form the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. Unlike Hadrian's Wall, the remains of the Roman frontier in Bavaria are difficult to see and understand. In April 2022 the LimesGemeinden were invited by Karen MacDougall and Dr Nigel Mills to participate in the Frontier Voices art project to celebrate 1900 years of Hadrian's Wall. In the artwork - a long banner - they wished to express the linearity of the ancient frontier (the grey line) and the 'Knick' (the bend in the Limes line), that is a particular local feature of the Limes. The blue line represents the river Schambach, that has carved a valley in the landscape of the Altmannstein area. Each person featured asks a different question about the Limes.

Dr Markus Gschwind and other Limes co-ordinators already participate in official meetings with their colleagues from across the Frontiers of the Roman Empire. They are all delighted that, through Frontier Voices, local communities have now been able to join in this very first transnational project linking local people across the Roman frontiers. Frontier Voices helps share experience of how this Roman heritage contributes to understanding our roots, how our ancestors lived, the physical and cultural legacies and links to modern times, and how together we can build a better future through understanding and respecting our past.

