

# Great Fire of Newcastle and Gateshead

## Puppet show characters

Colour in and cut out the characters below. Tape a wooden lolly stick on the back of the characters and see if you can re-tell the story of the Great fire of Newcastle and Gateshead. What role did the characters play during the fire? What might they say? How do you think they are feeling?

### Mr. Charles Bertram



#### Mr. Charles Bertram

Mr. Bertram was the owner of Bertram's warehouse. He was also a magistrate and an important person in Gateshead at the time.

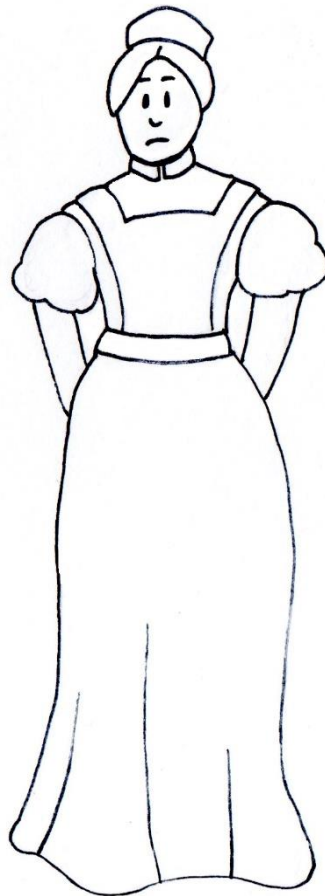
The warehouse he owned was right next door to Wilson's worsted factory. The warehouse was being used to store lots of chemicals; some of these were very flammable and could cause explosions.

He rushed to the quayside to try to save his warehouse and warn everyone of the dangers.

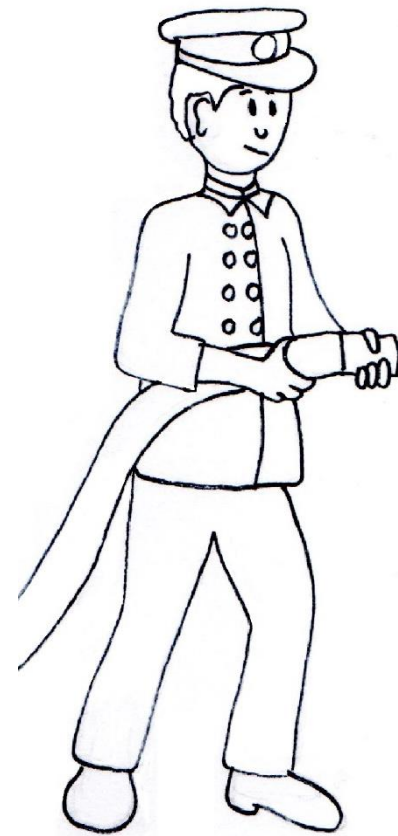
**Sally**



**Nurse Johnson**



**Fire Fighter- Martin Hall**



**Sally**

Sally was 8 years old. She shared a room with her parents and six brothers and sisters in a house in Hillgate, Gateshead. There were five other families all living in the house, which was falling down, cold and damp.

On the night of the fire Sally was woken by the explosion. The family rushed to see what was happening. But as the fire started to spread, they rushed back to rescue their belongings.

**Nurse Johnson**

Nurse Johnson worked at Newcastle infirmary and was working the night of the fire. Over 500 people were injured the night of the fire and patients at the infirmary gave up their beds and helped to care for the new patients.

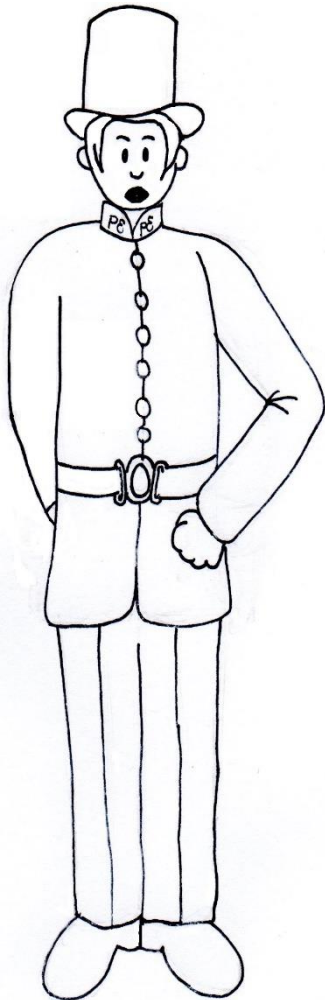
Nurse Johnson looked after lots of patients that night including 7 year old James Nicholas and 3 year old Ellen Farney. They both had broken bones and burns.

**Fire Fighter- Martin Hall**

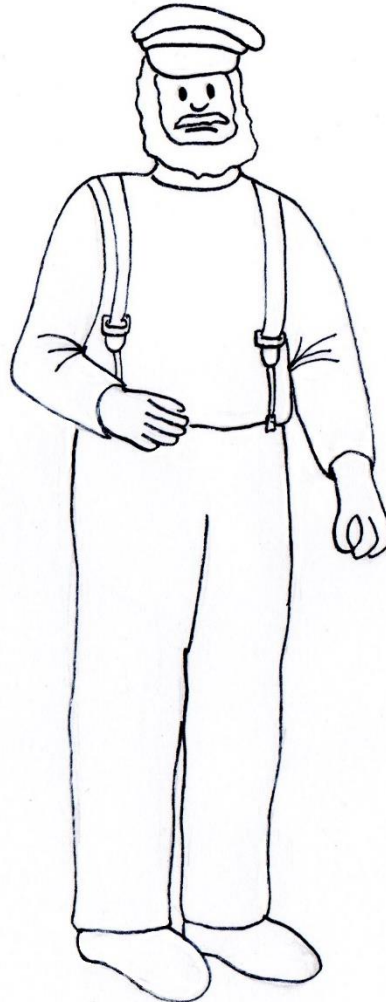
Martin was a private fire fighter. He and his company came to try and fight the fire. There were 3 small popping sounds and then a massive explosion. Martin and the other fire fighters were trapped under the rubble.

Fire fighters came from Durham, Morpeth, Berwick, Sunderland, and South Shields to help fight the fire. It took a day and a half to put the fire out.

**P.C. Ewart**



**Sailor Jack**



**P.C. Ewart**

John Ewart was a police officer. He was on patrol on the Newcastle side of the quayside when he spotted a fire. The fire was in Wilson's worsted factory.

He raised the alarm and helped to evacuate the building and surrounding area.

**Sailor Jack**

Jack Brown was a sailor. He worked on a ship which was used to transport goods for people.

The ship's captain was paid by factory owners to deliver their goods to other parts of this country or all over the world. Like many sailors, Jack could not swim as it was thought to be unlucky. He was asleep on the boat when the alarm was first raised about the fire in Wilson's worsted factory.