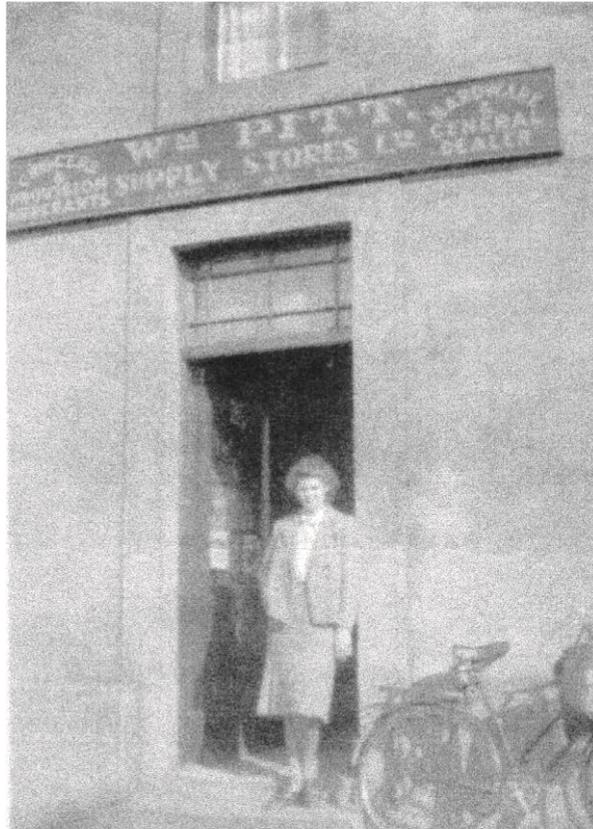


## EMBLETON – A PICTORIAL HISTORY

# 1941 – 1950

During the war Embleton took in 75 evacuees. Mrs Bertram, who was 14 in 1939, remembers the arrival of evacuees from Tyneside.

‘Anyone who was prepared to house one had to meet at the school. My sister and I went out of curiosity, but we were late, all had been allocated except for two brothers aged 7 and 9 from Byker whom no-one wanted. Not surprising as they were badly dressed with worn out shirts, jumpers with holes and Wellington boots in the middle of a heat wave. We felt sorry for them and rushed home to beg our parents to take them in. They finally agreed, to their regret. The boys were undernourished, had lice and festering sores. The eldest boy had rickets and got bronchitis. Their worn clothes were replaced and shoes bought ready for school. As winter approached warm coats were bought. They were allowed home for Christmas, mother taking great pride in making them smart for their first visit home. They came back to Embleton looking exactly as when they arrived in the summer. Their mother had pawned their new clothes.’



Mrs Margaret Pitt outside the Central Stores in 1944. She kept the shop open during WW II whilst her husband William was serving as a Flight Sergeant in the RAF. In 1947 they opened the Empire cinema on Mount Pleasant in a building that had been used as a store room for the shop but was originally built as an entertainment hall complete with stage. Balcony seats in the cinema were 1 shilling and sixpence and stalls 9 pence. Unfortunately the cinema was short lived and closed about 1952. The Pitts also opened a fish and chip shop in Hill Cottage opposite the Central Stores.



The Embleton First Aid team formed in 1940 to provide a service in the event of war casualties. The calls on them were few but they attempted, unsuccessfully, to rescue a British pilot when his plane crashed behind the pub at Low Newton and later provided help after the bombing of Alnmouth when the Schooner Hotel and other buildings were hit, killing and injuring a number of people. In 1947 they were called out to help at the Goswick train crash when a large number of passengers was killed.

Back Row:- NK, Charlie Varnham, Mrs Hall, Ted Taylor?, Gladys Hall

Front Row:- NK, Ellen Luke, Dr Hall's wife, Violet Grieves, Dorothy Bolton, Emmy Varnham



This Fordson tractor was used both as a bulldozer and to pull rail wagons of recently blasted whinstone. The quarry at its height was producing some 30,000 tons of Whinstone a year. Its setts were used to pave the Mersey tunnel and across the country for house building, kerbstones, paving etc. It was also one of the first Tarmac producers in the country operating from about 1919 until the mid 1950s. The picture was taken about 1945.



Embleton school band !! circa 1947. Identified :- Victor Thompson (far left) – Ann Armstrong (right hand girl) – Mary Laidler (left hand girl).



A Frith series postcard (E.T.N.11) sent to Mrs S Uglow in Launeston Cornwall postmarked Embleton 1951. Message :- 'Dear Mother I thought this card would suit you I hope Caroline had a good laugh. Saturday we went to the Chapel garden party and made £168. I had one first prize and should have had another but Tom's sister in law kept going before she beat me. Went to Chapel in the morning. In afternoon went to Scotland so far as Kelso 106 miles there and back very hot. Last night I tidied up the garden. Henry'.

This photograph was probably taken in the late 1940s. It shows Pitt's shop is now a cafe that also supplied the school dinners for a while. Lloyds bank operated a sub office in what is now Violet cottage on Front Street. It originally opened on a Tuesday but in October 1948 changed to a Friday from 9.30 until 11.00 a.m. All the rustic porches have been removed and the ivy cleared off the walls of the hotel.



An unattributed unused postcard. This photograph taken about 1950 shows Bolton's garage, in the centre of the picture, about the time it was sold to Charlie Thompson, who was a coal merchant from Christon Bank, for garaging his lorries. The building was eventually sold to Grieves Garage and after a period of disuse was demolished and replaced by four terrace houses on what is now named Bolton Terrace.



Unused unattributed postcard. Greyfield Estate built on land previously owned by the Greys of Falloden. Building started in 1947 with six wooden houses given by Sweden to Alnwick District Council. This photograph was probably taken in the early 1950s.