

## **Attack on the Night Porter, 1841**



The night porter booked night passengers and received and delivered the mail bags.

The story of what happened at Wingfield Station on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1841 was reported in many local newspapers across Britain.

The night porter opened the door in response to a knock and was whacked over the head with a weapon so heavy and so large that it made a two-inch gash in his skull.

He was not concussed and instantly put his hand to his head, when he received another blow which severed three of his fingers cleanly off his hand. There were two men at the door, but the night was so dark that he could not recognise them.

After the second blow, the attacker stepped back ready to deliver a third blow but in that moment of time the night porter succeeded in slamming the door shut and because the lock had a spring bolt locking it became fast.

This enraged the attackers who then made a furious attempt to break in through the windows but were put off as the wounded night porter rang the bell inside the station to call the alarm. The sound stopped the attackers and fled.

The porter found some cotton waste to stem the flow of blood from his hand and the opening in his skull. This saved his life. He then fainted and was found in this condition when the Alfreton Mail Cart arrived in the morning. The driver took him in the cart to the house of a surgeon in Alfreton where he recovered sufficiently to tell what happened. Hopefully he returned to work at some point.