

- **COMMISSIONAIRES**

Have you ever wondered whatever happened to Commissionaires? At one time every major department store, factory, theatre or cinema had at least one on duty and were easily recognised in their sparkling uniforms controlling the inevitable queues. Even the lowliest cinema, and there were at least 8 within a 15 minute walk from our house in Leeds had one. We never, ever see them these days!

Their history goes back a long way. They were formed in 1859 by Captain Sir Edward Walter KCB, as a way to provide gainful employment for ex-servicemen who were willing and able to work on their return from the Crimean War.

Their demise came when TV became the accepted media of entertainment and news. As cinema attendances dwindled they were then incorporated into a new company called Corp Security and still operate general security duties around the UK today but no longer, it seems, controlling queues standing outside cinemas.

Why then this lesson in history? Well, for an entry donation of £4.50, Wrentham Village Hall Cinema does not employ them either but we do show blockbuster, acclaimed movies - on a large screen, on the last Saturday of every month. Doors open at 7pm for refreshments, the film starts at 7.30pm. We can seat upwards of 100 people so to avoid the queues, without a Commissionaire, come early!

Up-coming **award winning** films:-

February 24 - **Dunkirk**

March 31 - **Paddington 2**

April 28 - **The Kite Runner**

May 26 - **The Darkest Hour**

June 30 - **Swallows and Amazons**

July 28 - **The Greatest Showman**

(Order of films may be subject to change)

Hope to see you there. Whilst, sadly these days we don't need a Commissionaire, you will be made very welcome by our lovely usherettes!

Keith Perry.