

## **DECEMBER CONCERT OUTING.**

### **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon.**

On 11<sup>th</sup> December we set off from the Vestry Estate to the Christmas concert at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon. Carl Davis, the American conductor was back in what he said was his favourite concert hall. Carl wrote the music for the BBC's "Cranford" and the film "The French Lieutenant's Woman" amongst many others. He brings the spirit of Christmas right on to the platform with his first greetings.

The programme was a delightful mixture of classical pieces, Christmas Favourites and Carols played by the wonderful Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Apparently it is not only recognised for its artistic work but prides itself on working in a wide variety of settings that include projects connected with homeless people, youth clubs and terminally ill children.

Mary Carew was the vocalist, coming from a background of working with international orchestras but versatile enough to record "The Best of Bond" with the RPO and Carl Davis. The softer songs, such as "Mary's Boy Child" and "Little Donkey" were perhaps her most enjoyable. At times, she seemed to hold the microphone a little too close for the volume of sound which she produced. The Hansel and Gretel Overture and the Waltz of the Flowers from Nutcracker were my favourite classical pieces.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves joining in with "The Twelve Days of Christmas", "Once in Royal David's City" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful". The second half of the concert was great fun, with Carl Davis coming on wearing a bright red tail coat and most members of the orchestra in Christmas hats. The interval was spent drinking mulled wine and delicious mince pies. We all set off home in a very merry mood having had an excellent evening.

Norna Munson.