

# Waltham Forest Civic Society

To preserve the best and improve the rest

[www.wfcs.org.uk](http://www.wfcs.org.uk)

December 2012 / January 2013



## Civic Society 40 Years

We had a very enjoyable evening on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Mallinson suite, Waltham Forest College. The dinner, to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was attended by twenty five people. We had a toast to the continued work of WFCS and our Chairperson Jane Sterland gave a speech. She said:

*“Over the time that the Civic Society has existed there have been many changes in the borough – the M11 link road has been forced through, we have lost many locally historic buildings and more are under threat, and there have been many inappropriate poor quality developments, but on the positive side Conservation areas have been set up, the local list expanded, some older buildings saved or reprieved, the street scene greatly improved in a number of areas and we have survived the Olympics!*

Over the years the Society has taken part in many campaigns and done its best to live up to its aim to ‘preserve the best and improve the rest’ in Waltham Forest. We are also part of a wider Civic movement in the UK, Civic Voice, so we are not alone in our efforts to protect and improve where we live.

*I asked Vi Gostling, one of the founder members of*



*Members and guests at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.*

*the Civic Society back in 1972, what she thought the greatest achievement of the Society has been over the years, and she replied ‘Its persistence’. And I agree - the Society has adapted and survived over the years through the efforts of people like Vi, Adrian, our previous secretary David Boote, current and previous committees, and its membership.*

*We have kept responding to the threats and challenges the borough has faced to its buildings, green spaces and quality of new developments, which it continues to face today.*

*One of the greatest challenges is to make sure the long term quality of life in our borough is considered rather than quick cheap fixes or caving in to developers waving wads of money.*

*Our strength is that we care about where we live and our borough as a whole and we are happy to work with others to protect and improve it. We may not win all the battles but the fact that we are here and doing our best makes a difference.*

*So what about the future? There are certainly tough and challenging times ahead with severe cuts, loosening of planning rules and intense demand for housing all needing to be faced.*

*In 2013 and years ahead I think we need to raise public awareness of the Civic Society and our principles, and make sure we attract and work with other individuals and groups who share our view.*

*Continued overleaf*