



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Venue:** The Golden Ball Community Pub, York.

### Apologies:

None

### Members Attending:

Linda Close- Trustee (LC)	Malar Ware
Ben Pugh- Trustee	Mamta Sahnan
Amanda Kent	Sara Mair
Consolee Mukamberuka	Sasiki Hubbersley (SH)
Giorgia Mariani	
Helen Hays	
Liliya Brezina	

### Volunteers and Supporters who signed in

Adam Wharf	Jo Tattersall	Olga Marti
Alfredo Vazquez	Jorge Ruiz Olles	Rita Buxton
Anne Bell	Leonardo Benito de Valla	Roberto Machado
Arturas Janusas	Lhama Cutting	Ruth Mather
Camille Sainsbury	Lufei Li	Sanjiva Dharmaratne
Carolina Akiz	Lynn Fulton	Sanugi Dassanayake
Casper Haslam	Manuela Pipitone	Sara Nandez
Catherine Xiao	Marcella Donati	Shirley Horsman
Devi Sorefan	Maria Huarte	Simon Town
Fasil Demsash	Mitsuo Noda	Thom Blake
J Pickles	Neil Corkery	Thomas Wood
Janet Thompson	Ola Tomczyk	Tina Anderson
Jessica Cutting		

### Agenda

1. Introductions to present management committee
2. Approval of previous AGM minutes 2nd July 2013
3. Chair's Annual report
4. Approval of audited financial accounts
5. Nominations/voting:
  - 5.1 To accept the resignation of YUMI Trustee and Treasurer Xiuying Liang
  - 5.2 To nominate and re-elect the current management committee.
  - 5.3 To accept the resignation of Sasiki Hubberstey Founder/Director from management committee.
  - 5.4 To elect Amanda Kent to YUMI Interim Co-Ordinator to management committee.
6. Projects updates from Helen, Sara, Giorgia.
7. Open forum and questions.

## 1. Welcome & Introductions

SH gave a general welcome and introduction to the meeting.

She introduced the Management Committee team and thanked the Forum members (Helen, Sara, Giorgia and Mamta) for their additional support throughout the transitional period.

### **Farewell from Sasiki stepping down as Founder/Director of YUMI**

SH remarked on how personally significant the day was for her and how fantastic it was to see everyone here. She reflected on YUMI's launch 9 years ago and how many of those at the launch were here today along with many more new faces – new people connecting with new people: YUMI's most central and important principle – and how wonderful it was to see such a strong team.

Her strongest wish for YUMI is that people connect and stay connected; that people take risks – do things they wouldn't normally do – that they keep in touch using the new website and Facebook. Knowing that there are people who seek to deny the richness in diversity and undermine cohesion makes what everyone does together in YUMI matter even more.

SH thanked the Management Committee for their continued commitment to YUMI and taking the Organisation forward and especially to all those members and volunteers present.

She emphasized that she will keep in touch with the organisation – would attend events and stay connected – and welcomed people to stay in touch with her.

## 2. Approval of AGM minutes 2nd July 2013

LC confirmed the Trustees had approved the minutes from the last AGM 2013.  
Approved by members.

## 3. Chair's Annual Report

YUMI wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to The Joseph Rowntree Foundation for the final instalment of funding – a sum of £30,000 – this grant allows YUMI to report a good set of accounts. YUMI reports to JRF every 3 months on progress made and the work undertaken by the YUMI projects team.

This final instalment of funding takes us through to mid-2015, and has made possible the appointment of AK and the work she will do managing day to day operations, networking locally and supporting Trustees with Organisational Development.

The COMMUNITY consultation results made clear what people coming to YUMI would like to see the organisation do:

- Provide a venue/events where people can meet socially and integrate.
- Improve the website – create a space on this where people can connect and provide more information about York, enabling people to navigate life and living here more easily.

YUMI project team has been designing and building a new website, which will soon be launched.

The main event YUMI delivered was the Street Festival in York City Centre – this fantastic event saw YUMI volunteers from 30 ethnic backgrounds getting involved in the event. This event attracted over 8,000 visitors. Well done to everyone who supported the event.

It came as a shock when Sasiki had to step down, management committee and Trustees have had to focus wholly on stabilizing the management of the organisation and coordinating the handover – and this has taken time. As we near the end of this transitional period, our focus for the rest of the year will be on the community garden, the website, communication, events and days out – most importantly we need to secure more grant funding.

To be able to run events like the Street Festival again, we'll need the cooks on board and a project leader to help organize. An event like this required a lot of grant funding - Simon and Amanda are working on applications to Tudor Trust and then Big Lottery Reaching Communities funding.

Funding will also be sought to help us sustain our most valuable resource – the YUMI community allotment and garden. We want to focus on the great opportunities the garden offers and we'll be encouraging more people to get involved– putting it back on the map - stronger and enhanced communications.

We are looking for a new Treasurer – an especially significant role in light of the amount of grant funding we will be seeking – and also, a Secretary. If anyone is interested, then please let us know!

January to March we will be focusing on communications activity.

If anyone has an idea for an event or activity, please, please let us know – the new website can be used to do this, or you can speak to anyone on the Management Committee.

Please remember too, that an open invitation exists to anyone involved in YUMI to apply to join the Projects Forum or Management Committee.

#### **4. Approval of audited final account**

Trustees have approved the 2013 externally audited accounts and the financial stability of the organisation for ongoing activities in 2015.

(Due to the space available in the room, and a packed room the Chair was not able to use a projector and screen to present the accounts) copies are available if anyone wishes to see these.

#### **5. Nominations/Voting**

##### **5.1 To accept the resignation of YUMI Trustee and Treasurer, Xiuying Liang**

LC formally requested support for the resignation of the Treasurer, Xiuying Liang.

Accepted by members attending.

The role of Treasurer will be filled temporarily by Trustee, Ben Pugh.

##### **5.2 To nominate and re-elect the current Management Committee.**

LC formally requested the current Management Committee be nominated and re-elected for this year.

Accepted by members attending.

One attendee asked if there was an upper limit on the size of the Management Committee. It was confirmed that no upper limit exists.

##### **5.3 To accept the resignation of Sasiki Hubberstey from the Management Committee.**

LC formally requested acceptance of the resignation of Sasiki Hubberstey from the Management Committee.

Accepted with regret by members attending.

##### **5.4 To elect Amanda Kent – the new YUMI interim co-ordinator to the Management Committee.**

LC formally requested that Amanda Kent be elected as an advisor to the Management Committee.

Accepted by members attending.

#### **Welcome to Amanda Kent**

AK was welcomed by LC and she then introduced herself to the meeting:

“Sasiki set up something incredibly important and valuable when she founded YUMI, and we need to ensure that we do her vision and all her commitment justice by making sure the YUMI community/family stays strong and becomes even stronger.

I'll be working closely with the trustees and project advisors to make sure the YUMI vision, values and successes are communicated to a wider public – including the City Council, other local organisations and funders.

I'll be working with Simon to prepare funding bids – to allow us to continue doing what we do – and more. To make our bids strong, we'll be using all the evidence of past activities to show why our work matters. But, we also need your ideas about what activities you'd like to see happen and get involved in.

I'll also be helping develop policies that strengthen the support YUMI offers.

People get involved in YUMI for many different reasons; as Giorgia's community consultation shows. Recognizing individual motives, needs and aspirations, and making sure YUMI addresses those, is vital if it is to continue to be the most welcoming and supportive place to be. So, I'll be developing processes and resources; consulting the rest of the team – and that means everyone – to ensure that these are firmly embedded into our everyday practices.

Today is especially significant for me, because I'm meeting all of you – so, I hope to get to talk to everyone. And, I fully intend to keep meeting you over the coming months. In between times, please do get in touch of you have any ideas or feedback on how YUMI can work better for you”

## 6. Project updates

### **Giorgia Mariani report on the Communications & Engagement project**

“From the consultation of those involved in YUMI, who have come to live in York from a different culture, feeling lonely was one of the main challenges. People want to stay connected.

The activities we've been busy with address this. We've been creating a participative space where people can connect and make friends on our new website – the on-line social. It's a kind of Facebook resource; but obviously just for the YUMI community – a place where you can put information about yourself, see other members and make friends, start conversations and share ideas.

Before we launch the new website, we really need some volunteers – 8 people (or more!) - to try out the on-line social tool, to tell us if it's fit for purpose – is it easy to use? Does it work the way you want it to? So, if anyone would like to help with this, please let us know.

Someone has asked if publications will be available on the website: yes, we have included a library page – this will include documents and reports we produce – the community consultation, for example.

The development of the website is one part of the Communications and Engagement Project that GM & SM have been running. Other elements of this have included; developing printed information and supporting people to develop their ideas into new activities. The International Craft Group is one example of this. The Craft Group was set up about 2 months ago and has had 3 meetings so far. Mitsuo has been creating origami and will be developing a '1000 wish crane' – which you can contribute today by writing your wish on the paper here, which he'll incorporate. Also, Consolee has been working on some gorgeous pieces of embroidery and Lhama has brought some examples of the felting she has made. Demonstrations of these can be seen today. Everyone is welcome to join and bring new craft ideas to the group – which hopes to eventually become self-financing. If you have any craft materials you'd like to donate to the group – these are always welcome too!

We've also been running some learning projects for volunteers: Yuko has been learning how to administer the website and SM has been supporting Liliya to organise events including today's Winter Celebration.

We'll also be running another event on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February – an afternoon of film and 'story-sharing', which will be held at The Chapel on Apollo Street (off Heslington Road) from 1pm to 4pm. We'd love to hear your stories, so do come along. We'll be posting full details of this on the website and Facebook, so watch out for this. We'll be needing volunteers to deliver flyers about it around town, so if you'd like to help, we'd love to hear from you.

If anyone has an idea for a new activity – please get in touch – send us an email and we can help coordinate and support your idea to develop”

The Chair thanked Giorgia and Sara for their excellent work on the project.

### **Helen Hayes report on the Community Garden:**

“Throughout 2014 the International Community Garden continued to provide a space where people who have come to York from different countries have joined with members of the host community to grow food plants, make new friends and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the garden. Some came to practise their English, some to learn a bit about gardening, and some came to share their own knowledge and experience of growing food in different countries.

As well as the week-by-week running of the garden we were also involved in two Summer Fairs in York, one at the Steiner School and one at West Bank Park. We took the message of the YUMI Garden to over 2000 people at West Bank Park, and also raised money for the garden by selling plants we had grown. The success of these two days is something we hope to build on further.

A new venture last year was our idea to visit the walled garden at Helmsley, where despite the rain we all had a great day out. This led us to organise another trip, to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, where this time we enjoyed a picnic in the sunshine. Another YUMI outing was held in York itself, at the Museum Gardens, and once again, the success of these events is something we would like to continue with this year.

Throughout the year we have continued to meet at the garden two days a week, with some volunteers going along on other days to do watering. We have grown our usual range of food plants, and had our best year yet for chillies, peppers and aubergines.

The uncertainty surrounding YUMI during the year meant that the garden was not used as much as it has been in previous years for YUMI events and activities, but despite this the garden has had a successful year in terms of retaining participants and attracting new ones. The garden is now in a good position to be used as an attractive and educational venue for a wide range of YUMI events this year, and has a solid foundation on which to build.

Looking forward to a new year

This year we hope to use the garden more as a venue for YUMI events. We have created a good space on the allotment which can be used for activities and we are going to explore the possibility of having a cover over the end bit to provide shelter if it rains.

We are hoping to hold some children's events and evening get-togethers with a view to getting more people along to the garden. We would also like to get a brightly painted sign made so that when people pass by they know which allotment is the YUMI garden.

We will be growing extra plants to sell at the Steiner School Spring and West Bank Park Fairs again, and also looking for other opportunities to sell our plants and produce.

We will look at organising more garden days out, and would like your ideas for possible places to go. As ever we would also like your ideas about new plants to grow, and we're also grateful for any seeds you can bring.

We will be looking at making the garden more accessible for participants in wheelchairs, including designing a raised bed that can be tended by anyone in a wheelchair.

We want to encourage more people to drop by the garden on Fridays and Saturdays to say hello or just sit and chat. You don't have to do any gardening!!!

Good news for the regular volunteers who have occasionally mentioned how much they would appreciate a wheel barrow – there is a rumour that we may be getting one!"

LC thanked Helen and all the garden volunteers team for all their work and reflected on how the energy and commitment YUMI generates makes even greater things possible in the future.

## **7. Open Forum for any questions**

LC welcomed questions from the floor.

Gary Craig took the opportunity to describe his work in York which focuses on issues of race and racism. A report he produced 5 years ago sought to address the need for an accurate demographic profile of York as a basis for well-informed policy development – the report drew attention to the percentage of minority ethnic groups within the population (12%). He is currently seeking funding to refresh this research – to bring it up to date – and feels its findings may be of use to YUMI.

Gary also asked about how to become a member of YUMI. GM explained that YUMI membership was free of charge – that being a member allowed entitlement to vote on proposals at the AGM.

Everyone attending is encouraged to become a member – a greater membership would help strengthen YUMI.

AGM business concluded, the Chair closed the meeting and The Winter Celebration event began.