

GROUP DRUMS UP CULTURAL LINKS

by Tom Stirling

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SPANISH dancing and African drumming in a Chinese restaurant marked the launch of a pioneering new cultural group in York.

The independent group, the York Unifying and Multicultural Initiative (YUMI), aims to support and strengthen York's different cultural groups by giving the city's communities a forum in which to come together and express themselves.

The evening of international entertainment at Maxis was just the start. Now project coordinator Sasiki Hubberstey hopes to hold more local events to highlight the ideas behind the group, before eventually opening a dedicated venue to house cultural workshops, exhibitions and conferences.

YUMI, believed to be the first network of its kind in the country, aims to explore "cultures" in the widest sense of the word, including not just ethnic groups, but also groups based on gender, age and parenthood.

Sasiki said: "There is nowhere in York which states, in a building and



BEAT: Devi Sorefan, YUMI member and event organiser, centre, has a go on the drums at Maxis

Picture: Paul Baker

through the activities held within that building: "This is what York is made up of and is proud of".

"This centre will be a visible statement to the local,

national and international community that it represents an important aspect of what York is, believes in and supports.

"The centre's development

will take place in an organic way, out of the energy and commitment of interested groups and individuals."

For more information about YUMI, and to get involved

with the group's activities, phone Sasiki on 01904 624742.

Alternatively you can send an email to sh_yumi@hotmail.com