

## Friends of Starbank Park: Notes of the committee meeting on 12 April at the Old Chain Pier

**Present** Alastair Robertson, Chair  
 Janet McArthur, Secretary  
 Graham Buckley, Treasurer  
 Stan Dunlop  
 Vikki Floyd  
 Sandy Logan  
 Christine Shepherd  
 Neil Forest (by invitation)

1.	Apologies were received from Anna Dobie, Rhona Else and Liz Nicolson.
2.	<p>The main item on the agenda was the Japanese style cherry blossom tea party. This is being held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, from 3pm-5pm. There was a long and wide ranging discussion. This note outlines the decisions made and the actions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Background:</i> The event will be primarily a picnic. It should showcase the park, make a little cash, be a pleasant afternoon out and allow attendees to enjoy nature and the cherry blossom.</li> <li>b. <i>Preparation:</i> Borders near the areas to be used will be weeded and inspected prior to the event. We will endeavour to keep the adjacent paths clear of soil before the blossom starts to fall.</li> <li>c. <i>Entry:</i> It was agreed that there would be an entry table where we would seek donations. The principle would be to ask for a sum for adults but make children free. The exact sum we will request will be decided once an estimate of likely costs has been made and calculated on a break-even point of around 75 adults. <b>Alastair</b> and <b>Graham</b> will lead on this and the final decision will be made following consultation by e-mail.</li> <li>d. <i>Facilities:</i> We will aim to have around 20 table spaced around the park as both eating points and stalls. Benches will be used as seating. <b>Christine</b> and <b>Graham</b> will arrange for some tables to be borrowed from Wardie Church. The tables must be returned on Saturday evening. In addition, 10 tarpaulins will be purchased (<b>Sandy</b>) for placing on the ground on the grass under the trees as picnic spots. <b>Janet</b> will purchase 10 paper lanterns for hanging on the trees. We will get a banner with "Welcome to Starbank Park" in Japanese script for use on the entry table (<b>Janet</b> to arrange with Rit).</li> <li>e. <i>The Picnic:</i> The Friends will supply, teas, coffees, oriental rice snacks, some home baking, juice and wine. <b>Janet's</b> friend Hazel will supply some Japanese teas, <b>Christine</b> will purchase a range of other teas (green, jasmine etc) as she feels appropriate, there is plenty coffee and juice. <b>Alastair</b> and <b>Stan</b> will check the wine. <b>Janet</b> will purchase the oriental nibbles. Food should be purchased as late as possible before the event (<b>all</b>) and, if the weather forecast is bad we may cancel or buy limited stocks. We did not assign a volunteer to co-ordinate home baking (tray bakes and scones). <b>Alastair</b> will seek a "volunteer". People coming will be welcome/encouraged to bring their own food and drink, if they wish.</li> <li>f. <i>Stalls:</i> There will be face painting (<b>Janet</b> will look for volunteers from her circle of friends), plant stall (<b>Graham</b> and <b>Stan</b>), a display of bird boxes, bat boxes and insect hotels (<b>Alastair</b>) and seed planting.</li> <li>g. <i>Toilets:</i> We will not hire toilets for this event.</li> <li>h. <i>Marketing:</i> <b>Alastair</b> and <b>Janet</b> will draft a poster based on a background of a photo of cherry blossom in the park. This will be distributed in local businesses, Victoria Primary School, park noticeboards, railings and across the local neighbourhood. <b>Alastair</b> will arrange for printing and laminating as required. <b>Janet</b> will contact Bill Rogers for possible inclusion of the event in Trinity Spotlight. <b>Janet</b> will announce the event on Facebook and <b>Alastair</b> will put it on the web/Twitter.</li> <li>i. <i>Volunteers:</i> All attending intend to help on the day, if at all possible.</li> </ol>
3.	Next Meeting: Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm. Location to be fixed.