CRUISE EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR PORTLAND

Portland Port has recently hosted its first cruise educational event. The event has been a year in the making and its aim is to introduce more local attractions to the ground tour operators who work with Portland Port and the cruise lines that visit throughout the year. Local attractions such as the Tank Museum, boasting one of the largest collections of tanks in the world, had the opportunity to market their attraction to the operators who can then further develop their understanding of what Dorset and the South West has to offer.

As cruise markets become more and more diverse it is important to maximise the number of excursion options available to the cruise lines. Ian McQuade has recognised this by pulling together a variety attractions that satisfy the criteria’s of; young families, culture vultures, the outdoors and active and more; “ “

 The event also provides a great opportunity for local businesses and attractions to get involved with the cruise industry as the ground tour operators can provide a great inside perspective of how the excursions sector operates, what they are looking for and how they package excursions for cruise passengers. Natasha Salaman, Park and Studio manager at Sculpture by the Lakes was at the event and found the experience very productive; ““Sculpture by the Lakes were delighted to be invited and included in Cruise Educational’s inaugural ‘speed dating’ networking event recently held at Weymouth and Portland’s Sailing Academy. We found the opportunity to meet the Ground Tour Operators face to face both interesting and rewarding and hope to build solid working relationships from this ‘marriage’.”

It is hoped that this will be one of event of many, with positive feedback from all involved the port will now look to planning a second event to further showcase what Dorset and the South West has to offer.

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**For more information or images please contact Jack Brooke at Portland Port on 01305 825368 or email** **j.brooke@portland-port.co.uk**

PHOTO: Excursions Coaches for AIDAstella

Notes to Editors:

Previously a naval dockyard for over 150 years, Portland Harbour is now a thriving and successful commercial facility. It still maintains a close relationship with the past through its ongoing contract to support the RFA, as well as being home to the activities of Global Marine and Portland Bunkers International. It has almost 2,500 hectares of water at depths of up to 15m (C.D.); and provides vessel services from long term lay-ups to brief maintenance calls, luxury cruise liner docking facilities to industrial cargo shipments.

The cruise schedule for 2014 can be seen and downloaded here:

<http://www.portland-port.co.uk/cruise/cruise-calls>

The tariff and general Portland Harbour Authority information can be viewed at <http://www.portland-port.co.uk/>

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Portland Port has over 2,000 metres of alongside berths and 11.6 metres (C.D.) depth of water at the deepest alongside berth.

Berthing for vessels up to 300 metres (subject to Harbour Master's approval).

11 designated anchorages are within the 1,015 hectare inner harbour. Six designated anchorages are within the 1,436 hectare Outer Harbour.

A width of 210 metres and depth of over 12.6 metres (C.D.) at the entrance of the harbour mean that there are few vessel beam, lock, or air draft restriction.

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