

## DISNEY MAGIC FEVER

Portland Port is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Disney Magic as she makes her inaugural visit on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The Disney Magic is over 300m long and can accommodate more than 2,800 passengers. This makes her the biggest cruise ship to ever visit Portland.

Disney Cruise Lines launched in 1998 and has firmly established itself as a leader in the cruise industry, providing a setting where families can reconnect, adults can recharge and children can experience all that Disney can offer.

The visit of the Disney Magic is, understandably, attracting a lot of attention for both the port and local area. When she made her first visit to other UK ports, such as Liverpool, huge numbers of people turned up to see the ship.

Whilst the nature and location of Portland is very different to a port such as Liverpool, the port is still preparing for several thousand people to potentially visit the area to try and get a glimpse of the Disney Magic.

All possible measures are being put in place to avoid congestion, however, the port is kindly asking that people do not attempt to visit the port unless access has been authorised in advance. The berth that the ship will be docked at is not visible from Castletown, however, there are lots of good viewpoints in the local area.

Some suggestions of where people can see the ship from, include, but are not limited to:

- Nothe Gardens in Weymouth
- Sandsfoot Castle
- Sandsfoot Castle Café will be open from 10am – 5pm
- Hamm Beach, there are public pay and display car parks on either side of Portland Beach Road near Billy Winters and Taste Café Chesil.
- Billy Winters will be open.
- Taste Café Chesil will be open from 10am – 5pm
- The Boat That Rocks at Portland Marina will have views of the ship arriving and departing.
- The Jailhouse Café at The Verne will be open from 10am – 3pm.

Due to the nature of Disney's customers and the size of the vessels in the Disney Cruise Line fleet, Mr McQuade, General Manager – Commercial at Portland Port, is optimistic that this cruise call could be the beginning of a long relationship between the port and Disney. "The Disney Magic will be the first cruise ship of over 300m in length to call at Portland Port and we do not expect her to be the last. The recently completed cruise berth extension will allow us to handle ships in excess of 340m long alongside and with more and more cruise ships over 300m long being delivered to the global fleet we anticipate this to be the first of many."