

## London to Paris Bike Ride

Neil Birch and Jeff Denison successfully completed the London To Paris Bike Ride in late June in aid of the North West Air Ambulance.

They cycled over 300k over 3 days and between them they have raised a grand total of £4,500 up to press. Neil and Jeff would like to thank all who sponsored them for their support.



## Assisting Marine Conservation

Lakes Aquarium, based at Lakeside, launched a Message in a Bottle initiative at the start of National Marine Week. This asked visitors to use forms containing 140 character spaces, on which they could write a message.

The message had to detail what they love about the seashore and how they feel about the potential loss of creatures like the Monk Seal, which are facing extinction. This proved so successful, that the idea is now running indefinitely.

The initiative cleverly combines the age-old idea of messages in a bottle with new technology-driven communication in the form of Twitter. Messages have to be popped inside an oversized bottle in the Seashore Discovery zone, with an assurance that they will be washed up and received by those maintaining the attraction's Twitter page. There are prizes for the best messages received, but all will have their moment of online fame.

Tickets to Lakes Aquarium cost £8.95 for an adult, £5.95 for a child aged 3-15 and £26.95 for a family of two adults and two children, but can be bought online at savings of up to 30



per cent. Lakes Aquarium is open every day, from 9am to 6pm in summer, with last admission at 5pm.

Find their Twitter page at [www.twitter.com/lakesaquarium](http://www.twitter.com/lakesaquarium)

## Beach Hut Gallery

The Beach Hut is hosting an "Open" Exhibition showing arts and crafts from around the region – as part of its programme of changing exhibitions.

Artists were invited to submit up to 3 pieces of work in any medium for selection by a panel of established artists from the county. This diverse show opens Saturday 28th August until Sunday 5th Sept each day 11am – 5pm, then weekends only or by arrangement until 10th October.

At Kents Bank Station, The Beach Hut Gallery can be reached by train, car or on foot after a brisk walk along the Prom. Enquiries on 35959 / 35414, admission free.

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## Going Green with solar panels

Generate your own electricity!

In Cark-in-Cartmel, at Foxgloves on the aptly named Sunny Bank, a solar photovoltaic (PV) system has recently been installed. The PV solar panels cover approximately half of the south facing roof of Foxgloves – 14.2 sq metres. It is forecast to generate approx 1,600 kWh each year. Enough to boil nearly 58,000 cups of tea!! The owners of Foxgloves have discovered that not only are they reducing their carbon footprint by ca 900 kg of CO2 but they as home owners will also make a considerable annual saving on energy costs.

The installer, Sundog Energy of Penrith, is one of UK's leading designers and installers of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Since April 2010 a government subsidy – the so called Feed In Tariff (FIT) – has made the PV option increasingly attractive also to home owners.

Surprisingly with the summer we're having this year, Morecambe and the Morecambe Bay area has almost as many sunshine hours as the south of England. Sundog Energy is currently installing a multimillion PV system in London, at King's Cross but have many more local installations under their belt such as domestic systems, community halls, farms, schools and councils.

The PV system generates electricity daytime and more when the sun is shining. What isn't used by the house owner there and then is exported back to the electricity grid and the house owner is paid accordingly. In addition to this the owner is also paid a set amount depending on the size and location of the system. This system is ideal for home owners who will be able to use electricity daytime and have a reasonably large roof facing southwards.

The lifetime of a system is approx 50 years and the payments under the FIT scheme are guaranteed for 25 years. With installation costs typically between £8,000 - £12,000 and typical annual savings of around £900 - £1,200 p.a. a home owner would be looking at a return of investment of between 7-8% per year – tax free. If you are interested, all it will take is a telephone call to Sundog Energy on 017684 87220 with your postcode and they will advise whether your location and your roof is a good option for a PV system. Or visit the website: [www.sundog-energy.co.uk](http://www.sundog-energy.co.uk).

sundog  
energy



**Go Solar – save money and save carbon!**

With Solar PV you can now:

- generate your own electricity
- reduce your carbon footprint
- save money

You will need a large, uncluttered, southerly facing roof with minimal shade from trees or other buildings

Typical cost £8000 - £12,000. For more information call us on 017684 87220 – or visit our website: [www.sundog-energy.co.uk](http://www.sundog-energy.co.uk).

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