

# Heartbeat

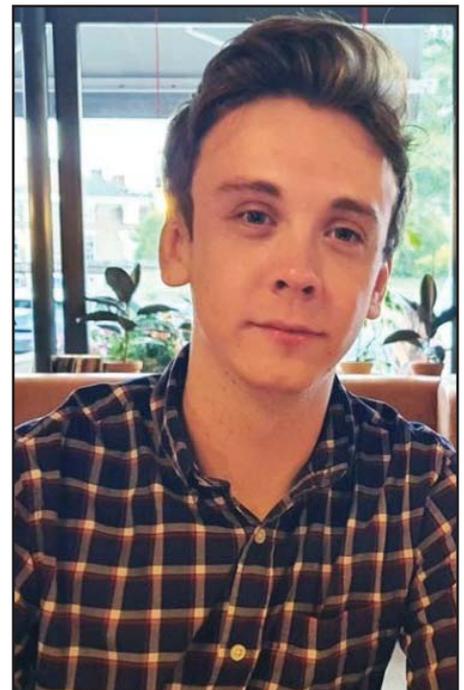
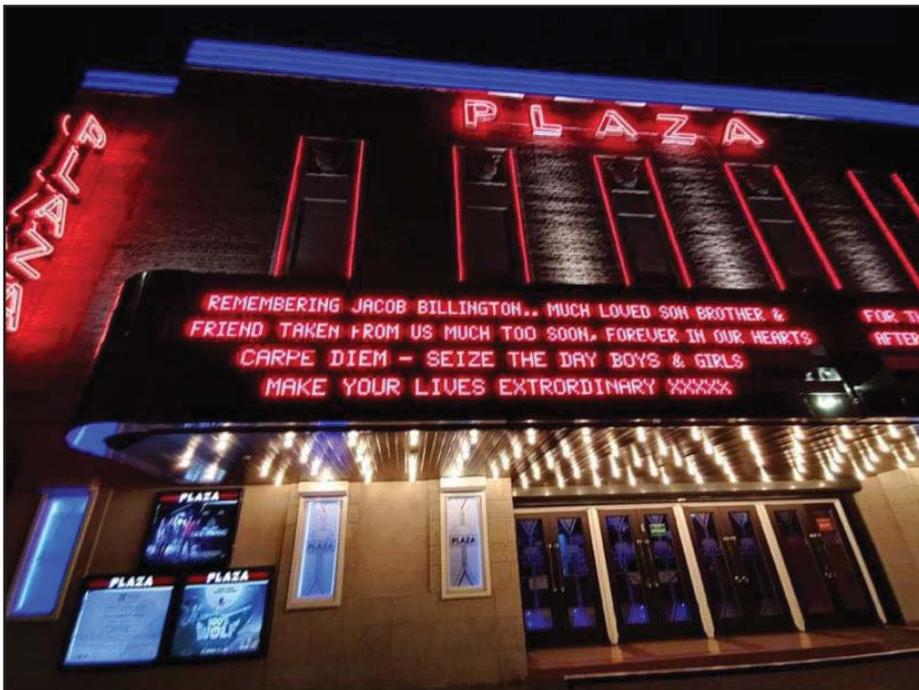


Monday, September 28



Issue 4

## Jacob Billington tribute set up to save Plaza cinema



A tribute dedicated to the memory of former pupil, Jacob Billington, that hopes to help save the Plaza Cinema from closure, has been set up.

Website, [jacobbillington.muchloved.com](https://jacobbillington.muchloved.com) has been set up by friends and family of Jacob and is hoped it will help raise money in his name for the Plaza Cinema in Crosby.

The website page, which shares photographs and friends' memories of Jacob, has only been operating for a small time but has already had pledges totalling nearly £8,000.

Former Sacred Heart Governor, Peter Harvey, has praised those who have set up the tribute. In a message on Twitter, he wrote: "We look for positives at times of tragedy. Here is one. Family and friends of kind, fun-loving, gifted Jacob Billington, 23, from Crosby #Liverpool are raising cash for @Plaza Cinema in his mem-

ory. Please share or donate, if you can: <https://jacobbillington.muchloved.com>"

Meanwhile, amongst the tributes paid to Jacob on the website included this from one of his former music teachers, Faye McGuire: "I worked in the music department in Sacred Heart when Jacob was an A Level student.

### Friends

"I remember going on music tours and him being funny and kind. I remember how close he was with his group of friends and it is clear from the tributes he was well loved.

"You always remember your first few years as a teacher and the students you taught and Jacob was a part of that wonderful memory.

"I'm particularly sending love to his lovely group of friends who I know will feel the pain of his absence."

Plaza manager, Martin Fol, paid his own

tribute to Jacob on the cinema's canopy.

It read: "Remembering Jacob Billington... much loved son, brother & friend taken from us much too soon. Forever in our hearts. Carpe diem - seize the day boys & girls. Make your lives extraordinary."

It is hoped the website set up in Jacob's honour will help provide some much needed funding for the Plaza Cinema, which has only recently re-opened amid the ongoing Covid pandemic.

The cinema closed its doors in March as part of the national lockdown before finally being allowed to re-open again in July.

But these remain testing times for businesses and so it is hoped donations made in Jacob's name will help keep the popular cinema from closing its doors for good.

Anyone wanting to donate can do so by visiting the website;

[jacobbillington.muchloved.com](https://jacobbillington.muchloved.com)



# Poetry prize winner Maisie looking to go one better

Year 10 pupil, Maisie Price, says she wants to go one step further and win the Poetry by Heart competition, after finishing runner-up in the 2019/20 event.

Poetry by Heart 2020/21 launches this Wednesday and Maisie said she intends to enter the annual speaking event and hopes, this time, she can claim the top prize.

Maisie said: "I was quite shocked that I came runner up but I was really happy, so I will definitely be entering again.

"I'm not sure yet what poems I will read this time, but after finishing runner-up last time, I want to try and go that one step further and win."

Last time out, Maisie had been entered into the Key Stage 3 Individual Recitation category by her teachers after impressing them during lessons.

After some inevitable Covid-related disruptions, the Poetry by Heart judges wrote to all the competitors individually, telling them how they fared and offered feedback on their performances.

Maisie was delighted to learn her recitals of

the poems, *Sonnet 60: Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore* and *The Witch*, had earned her the runners-up spot.

The Key Stage 3 judging team, which consisted of a team of poets, poetry experts and educators from the organisations which make up Poetry By Heart's partnership team, praised all the competitors and offered Maisie the following critique of her recitals.



Poem 1: *Sonnet 60: Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore*

"The judges were impressed by this mature and measured presentation. Maisie's delivery was composed and engaging.

Poem 2: *The Witch*

"A convincing recitation that the judges enjoyed very much. Maisie delivered her poem with composure and a steady voice."

After hearing of Maisie's success, English

teacher, Mrs Weekes, praised Maisie for her achievement. She said: "I am thrilled for Maisie.

"She worked very hard on her recitals and to finish runner-up is a tremendous achievement. Well done Maisie."

Due to the ongoing issue with Covid-19, Maisie only received her prizes earlier this month.

Headteacher, Mr Pye, is pictured presenting Maisie with her certificate and a £10 book voucher.

Poetry by Heart 2020/21 launches this Wednesday and National Poetry Day takes place on Thursday, October 1.

For more details about Poetry by Heart, visit their website; [www.poetrybyheart.org.uk](http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk)

## News in brief

All students are reminded to adhere to the methods installed to help with social distancing and cleanliness. These include use of hand sanitisers, pupil hubs and directional arrows.