Message from Irene Knox
Chief Executive Libraries NI

Belfast and Dublin have rich literary traditions producing many great writers over the centuries. Both cities also have strong, vibrant and well-supported libraries as well as knowledgeable, discerning and appreciative readers. It is my pleasure to invite you to join us in Two Cities One Book, the first joint reading promotion between libraries in these two cities. As with all good ideas, the only surprise is why we haven’t done this before.

There is something magical about the ability of an author and the power of a good story to transport us to another time and place. As we turn the pages we soon become engrossed in the lives of the characters. We share their joys, loves and dreams and if tragedy strikes they are not alone in shedding a tear.

Lia Mills is one such author and her novel, Fallen, is one such story. Katie Crilly a young independent woman is about to make her way in a society very different from today. As Ireland enters the First World War and amidst the events of Easter 1916 Katie’s life is about to be changed forever. How? Well I will leave you to read the novel to find out what happens.

A rich and varied programme of events has been created to support the Two Cities One Book festival and to explore the many themes featured in the novel. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in helping us develop and deliver this exciting programme. We believe there is something for all readers to enjoy and we look forward to welcoming you to the events in April.

Copies of Fallen are available to borrow in Belfast libraries and also in eBook format via the Libraries NI website.

www.libraries.org.uk/twocitiesonebook

Exhibitions

21 March – 30 July 2016
Reflections on 1916
This exhibition reflects on the historic events of 1916 using original documents from the Belfast Heritage collection. Material from Libraries NI newspaper, map and archive collections will illustrate this period of time.

Venue: Heritage Library Belfast Central Library
View during library opening hours.

Libraries NI Virtual Exhibition
April 2016 - Postcards from the Easter Rising
This exhibition will display a selection of postcards including Dublin street scenes taken during and after the 1916 rebellion.
www.librariesni.org.uk/services/Heritage/Pages/Virtual-Exhibitions.aspx

The Two Cities One Book campaign will run for the month of April 2016 - to keep up to date with everything happening go to www.librariesni.org.uk/twocitiesonebook

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Irene Knox
Monday 4 April
Lia Mills - My Favourite Novels
In conversation with BBC Northern Ireland's arts and culture broadcaster Marie-Louise Muir, Fallen author Lia Mills takes us through her favourite novels.

Monday 4 April
Live Twitter Q&A with Fallen author Lia Mills
Time: 8:30pm - 9:00pm
Join the Twitter conversation @LibrariesNI

Tuesday 5 April
Ireland’s Decade of Centenaries
Some Reflections: a talk by Catriona Crowe
What were the issues facing Ireland during a decade which saw violence, political transformation, class warfare, human rights achievements, civil war and the creation of two new states? What has been the legacy of these events and how can we best reflect on them 100 years later?

Catriona Crowe is Head of Special Projects at the National Archives of Ireland and editor of Dublin 1911, which was credited by Lia Mills as “One of two evocative books that helped me to think about Dublin’s atmospheres during this period”.

Tuesday 7 April
The Great War Centenary
Online workshop
One hundred years on from the Battle of the Somme and other major engagements, discover websites that will explain the Great War and bring it to life. Find out how to tap into online library resources such as the Dictionary of National Biography and Oxford Reference Online.

Venue: Shankill Road Library
Time: 10:00am - 12 noon
Phone: 028 9090 9232 - Booking essential

Thursday 7 April
The Great War Centenary
Online workshop
One hundred years on from the Battle of the Somme and other major engagements, discover websites that will explain the Great War and bring it to life. Find out how to tap into online library resources such as the Dictionary of National Biography and Oxford Reference Online.

Venue: Cregagh Library
Time: 10:30pm - 12:30pm
Phone: 028 9040 1365 - Booking essential

Monday 11 April
Irish Women, Suffrage and War – A talk by Dr Margaret Ward
This talk will cover the different suffrage groups in Ireland and their campaign for women’s citizenship, including prison and hunger strikes, at a time when the issue of Home Rule dominated Irish politics. War and revolution affected women’s organisations: pacifists argued against those who organised women’s war relief work in what were increasingly violent times, and the 1916 Rising deeply affected many.

Dr Margaret Ward is a feminist historian who has a particular interest in the contribution of Irish women to political movements in the 20th century. She is currently researching the impact of the Great War on Belfast women and the history of the Ulster suffrage movement.

Venue: Belfast Central Library
Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Phone: 028 9050 9150 - Booking advisable

Tuesday 12 April
After a Fashion
A talk by Valerie Wilson, Curator of Textiles at National Museums Northern Ireland
The period 1900 to 1918 saw many changes in clothing fashions. Belfast linen companies and stitching factories employed tens of thousands and serviced a global demand for costume and textiles.

This illustrated talk will look at costume in daily life in Ulster around 1916 and outline the context in which clothing was produced and worn.

Venue: Belfast Central Library
Time: 10:00am - 12 noon
Phone: 028 9050 9150 - Booking advisable

Thursday 13 April
The Great War Centenary
Online workshop
One hundred years on from the Battle of the Somme and other major engagements, discover websites that will explain the Great War and bring it to life. Find out how to tap into online library resources such as the Dictionary of National Biography and Oxford Reference Online.

Venue: Belfast Central Library
Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Phone: 028 9050 9150 - Booking advisable

Wednesday 20 April
Irish Traditional Music: Pre-1916 and its Aftermath – A talk by Robbie Hannan, Head of Folk Life & Agriculture at National Museums Northern Ireland
This talk and recital will look at Irish traditional music in the early years of the 20th century. It will highlight the role of organisations such as Conradh na Gaeilge, the Dublin Pipers’ Club and the Feis Ceoil in promoting traditional music. There will be an opportunity to hear live music played by local musicians.

Venue: Belfast Central Library
Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Phone: 028 9050 9150 – Booking advisable

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