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

Irene Knox
Friday 1 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
t: 028 9050 9232 - Booking essential

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

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?
Venue: Cregagh Library
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm
t: 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
t: 028 9050 9150 - Booking advisable

Wednesday 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
t: 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

Saturday 23 April
Of War and War’s Alarms - A poetry reading by Gerald Dawe
Of War and War’s Alarms is a unique study of war and revolution and their impact on the writing lives of Irish poets and novelists from WWI and the Easter Rising, through the War of Independence to the Spanish Civil War, WWII and Northern Ireland’s “Troubles”. These reflections on literature in wartime include such figures as WB Yeats, Thomas MacGreevy, Seamus Heaney, Francis Ledwidge, Charles Donnelly, Padraic Fiacc, Benedict Kielty, William Trevor, John Hewitt and Christabel Bielenberg. Of War and War’s Alarms is a fascinating narrative that builds upon Gerald Dawe’s achievement in his original ground-breaking anthology of Irish war poems Earth Voices Whispering. Originally from Belfast, the poet Gerald Dawe is now based in Dublin.
Venue: Linen Hall Library
Time: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Monday 25 April
An Evening with Three Historical Writers - Lia Mills, Catherine Dunne and Martina Devlin
How to stop research taking over? Does truth get in the way of a good story? Is there a responsibility to get the facts? A panel of three writers who have written historical as well as contemporary novels will talk about crossing the lines between fiction and fact.
With: Lia Mills, author of the Two Cities One book title Fallen; Catherine Dunne, author of Another Kind of Life, set in Dublin and Belfast at the turn of the 20th century; and Martina Devlin, from Tyrone, author of Ship of Dreams (about the sinking of the Titanic) and The House Where It Happened (based on a true story about witch fever in Antrim).
Venue: Finaghy Library
Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Venue: Woodstock Library
Time: 10:00am - 12 noon
t: 028 9050 9239 - Booking essential

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Friday 29 April
Belfast visits Dublin
Libraries NI readers pay a visit to Dublin, which is the setting for the novel Fallen. Leaving Belfast Central Library at 9:30am, the visit includes a tour of Collins Barracks Museum. In the afternoon join the audience for an interview of Lia Mills by Madeleine Keane, Literary Editor, Sunday Independent. The group will leave Dublin at 3:30pm.
The trip to Dublin is free and will include lunch. Spaces are limited and booking is essential. Bookings can be made through Libraries NI Customer Support on t: 0345 4504 580 or email to enquiries@librariesni.org.uk