



Press Release
13th June 2016

**Dublin and Belfast joined together for a *Two Cities One Book* initiative at
*The Howth Literary Arts Festival***

Last weekend, as part of '*Two Cities One Book*', a cross border initiative saw Fingal Libraries bringing Belfast book clubbers to The Howth Literary Arts Festival, an event sponsored by Fingal County Council. The participation of Libraries NI added a new and exciting dimension to the festival.

The team from Fingal Libraries were delighted to be part of this new twist to the Dublin City's: One City One Book festival, as Dublin and Belfast joined together in a *Two Cities One Book* initiative which focuses this year on the wonderful novel *Fallen* by Lia Mills. Published by Penguin Random House, Lia Mills' novel is this year's chosen book and tells the story of Dubliners against the backdrop of the dramatic events of World War 1 and Easter Week 1916.

The weekend festival, which ran from 11th – 12th June, saw a full programme of talks and workshops by distinguished authors, poets, commentators and illustrators including Joe Duffy, John Boyne, David McWilliams, Hilary Fannin, Nuala Ni Chonchuir and more. A special feature of the festival was the free but ticketed events for Children's Literature Programme on Sunday.

Senior Executive Librarian Yvonne OBrien commented: "I am delighted that Fingal are once again involved in Dublin City's One City One Book festival and with the public's response to the recent visit by author of *Fallen*, Lia Mills to Baldoyle Library. I'm especially happy that Dublin and Belfast have made it a joint selection, and that book clubs in Fingal, Dublin have been twinned with book clubs in Belfast to read it."

A highlight for Fingal County Council, Libraries Division included a visit by three Belfast book clubs, Finaghy Library, Ormeau Road Library and Lisburn Road Library reading groups, to Howth Literary Arts Festival on Saturday 11th June, to be followed by a reciprocal visit by two Fingal book clubs by coach to Belfast with lunch in Belfast City Hall followed by a tour of the Ulster Museum during Autumn 2016.

Ends

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