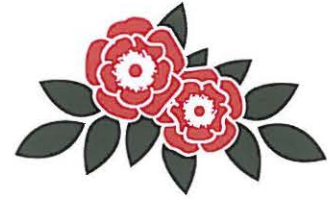


# NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY  
— OF CENTRAL —  
LANCASHIRE



## Diverse Voices bring literature to life

A group of leading writers and scholars will soon be converging on Preston for a ground breaking conference which aims to present fresh perspectives on contemporary Irish literature.

The University of Central Lancashire is hosting a three day conference, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April, on Contemporary Irish Literature, which includes readings open to the general public. There will be opportunities to hear leading novelists and poets from the Republic and from Northern Ireland.

The conference begins with readings on Friday evening by Bernard O'Donoghue and Frank Ormsby, followed by a free reception hosted by the Irish Embassy. On Saturday, there will be readings by prize winning novelists, Deirdre Madden, Glenn Patterson and Colm Toibin, followed by extracts by four woman poets from the 'Word of Mouth Poetry Collective'.

Conference organiser Professor Michael Parker says: "Given the diversity and energy of Irish creative and critical writing and its contribution to life within and beyond Ireland, and the unparalleled impact of Irish culture over the last two decades, this is an opportune moment for an examination of the voices that have enhanced and enriched that culture".

The event has been sponsored by the University, the North West Arts Board and Waterstones Book Shop. Further details and the full conference programme are available from Karen Adams, Department of Cultural Studies, tel: 01772 893020, [kadams@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:kadams@uclan.ac.uk).

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**31 March 2003**

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**Note to editors:** The conference is part of the 'Writers and Writing at UCLan 2003' series. More details are available from Karen Adams, tel: 01772 893020, [kadams@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:kadams@uclan.ac.uk). For media enquiries, please contact Pam Culley, Media & Public Relations Office, tel: 01772 894425, [pculley@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:pculley@uclan.ac.uk)