

Dr Ben Fisher

Dr Benjamin (Ben) Fisher, Lecturer in French at Bangor University and webmaster for the Welsh Highland Railway, has died at the premature age of 45.

He was born in Birmingham but grew up in Newcastle-under-Lyme and was educated at the former Wolstanton Grammar School and Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he read Modern and Medieval Languages.

He went to Bangor to study for his PhD in 1986 and remained there for the rest of his career, taking up a post as Lecturer in French in 1990. By the time of his death, he was head of the French section and a well-respected senior colleague whose wisdom and good counsel were highly valued by students and colleagues alike.

Ben's enthusiasm for French literature was more than equalled by his love of technology, both as a means of communication and as a pedagogical tool. He made an immeasurable contribution to the development of the School of Modern Languages at Bangor in this area, perhaps most significantly, as the co-developer and eventual director of the School's multimedia language centre and as the School's webmaster.

Ben showed huge dedication to his discipline and to his students. He served the School of Modern Languages in many ways, as secretary to the Board of Studies for many years, as admissions tutor and as Head of French. His keen eye for detail made him the first port of call for colleagues in cases of uncertainty and questions of precedent. It was, however, in his dealings with his students that Ben's true legacy lies. He was an inspiring teacher and dedicated tutor who was often prepared to go the extra mile.

Ben died unexpectedly at home on 13 August 2009. He is survived by his father and brother.

Professor Carol Tully