

The Laura Ashley Foundation

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Sir Bernard Ashley dies

Sir Bernard Ashley, co-founder with his wife, Laura, of the fashion and textiles empire, Laura Ashley plc, has died peacefully at his home in Mid Wales at the age of 82.

His daughter, Jane Ashley, Director of the Laura Ashley Foundation, comments:

My father achieved all he set out to achieve in life. He was very creative, as well as being a good businessman. In this he inspired and encouraged us. He loved Wales and the Welsh people. He had a great sense of humour; he was a lot of fun. Tellingly, his favourite song was Frank Sinatra's version "My Way."

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Notes to Editors:

Sir Bernard Ashley - born August 11th 1926

Married Laura Mounteney in 1949

Father of four children

Laura Ashley company formed in 1953

Family moved to Wales in 1961

Company employed over 1000 people worldwide by 1975, by which time its turnover exceeded 5 million pounds

Set up Elanbach textiles company in 2000

The Laura Ashley Foundation - set up in 1986, in memory of Laura Ashley, the designer, who died the year before. The Foundation is a Trust Fund that awards funding to worthwhile projects. In light of the family relationship with Wales, specifically the county of Powys, The Foundation has specifically supported projects which aim to benefit communities in this part of Wales.

The Ashley family remains actively involved in the day to day running of the Foundation ensuring that awards compliment the family ethos. The projects supported vary widely, from small community events through to the support currently being awarded to two textile departments at Welsh Colleges and Universities.