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By Michael Barker

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Flower giant Dennis Edwards passes away

Edwards, who ran Dennis Edwards Flowers on New Covent Garden Market, was a popular figure in the London flower trade



Dennis Edwards, a major figure in the UK flower trade, has passed away.

A statement from New Covent Garden Flower Market announced that the co-owner of Dennis Edwards Flowers, previous owner of John Austin Flowers Co. and employee of the Flower Market for more than 50 years, died on Sunday 19 July.

As a third generation Covent Garden Market trader, Edwards started in the

Flower Market as a porter, aged 17. Over the next six decades he would have an illustrious career, with highlights including sourcing Lily of the Valley for HRH the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding bouquet, flowers for the coffin at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, as well as 3,000 rose petals for the 9/11 remembrance service.

Edwards was a familiar and popular figure on the market, and a highly valued supplier to florists across the capital.

Covent Garden Market Authority's statement said: "We know Dennis will be remembered at New Covent Garden Flower Market as a true gentleman and legend in the floral industry. Covent Garden Market Authority have sent our deepest condolences to his family and will be keeping them along with his friends and colleagues in our thoughts at this difficult time."

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