



Jon Symon's One man Band

The greatest One man Rock band in the World

### BIOGRAPHY

I suppose that I've always been a bit of a weirdo! Even today, my Father calls me his mad son when he introduces me to people. This is a typically British understatement. When I eventually write my life story, which will have to be in my next life because I shall have enough to say right up to my end, it will fill a soap opera. (Yes, I believe in reincarnation!) Here, for the purpose of getting a general picture of my life, I'm shortening everything to explanatory sentences.

10 January 1941

Born in the RAC Club, Epsom, Surrey, England, (where my Father was the manager) at midday, Friday. The worst air raids of the War. "Dog fights" over Surrey; St Pauls burns.

1943

Move to St George's Hotel, Bradford, where I started to play a full miniature set of drums at the age of 4. First stage appearance at the Hotel with the Orchestra. Caused some agro with a hotel guest playing a military drum outside his bedroom. That guest was the famous radio star, Wilfred Pickles, who was not amused! An old gentleman called Francis Laidler used to live permanently at the hotel. He was famous in the north of England for his pantomimes, and he used to invite me every year on my birthday to see his show, where the whole cast sang "Happy birthday", which made me very proud.

1951

Moved to the "Royal York Hotel", Ryde, Isle of Wight. Became interested in space flight, and did nothing in school except drawing plans of space ships! Bought a book on Hypnosis and successfully hypnotised various schoolboys to do various silly things, like screaming in singing lessons and being late for classes. Big troubles with the matron and the Head Master.

1956

Remained interested in Astronautics. Left school and went to Portsmouth College of Technology. What I did there can be explained by the following newspaper cuttings. Formed my first band. A skiffle group called the "Satellites", and earned five shillings a night.

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1958

Due to my extensive interest in space flight, got thrown out of college and started work as, wait for it, assistant development engineer in a rubber factory which made fuel tanks for rockets. After 6 months I left to be a post boy in an advertising agents in London. Another 6 months and I was a laboratory assistant in the physical chemistry laboratory of Holloway Polytechnic. Nothing to do with the womens prison!!!!

TEEN PAGE — for the young of all ages



The two teenagers behind "Operation Nightrider" — Ian Price (left) and Simon Hornsby. In the centre, a model of the "Nightrider" they aim to send into space.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

by Teen Page Reporter W-H-O-O-S-H... and the sky's the limit!

That's the target of a bunch of Portsmouth teenagers who have a rocket propelled reply to anyone who thinks that Britain's youth lacks initiative.

These Pompey pioneers — all students, average age eighteen — are going to launch their own space-age rocket.

They call it "Nightrider" — and what a rocket! It will be 21ft. long, weigh 150lb. with fuel, scoot through the air with a top speed of 2,000 m.p.h.

AND SHOOT SIXTY MILES UP INTO SPACE.

RECORD BID

The project began five months ago when Portsmouth students Simon Hornsby, 18, of St. Michael's road, and Ian Price, 17, of Commercial-road, read that some American rocketeers had set an amateur world record by sending an 8ft. rocket up ten miles. Kids stuff!

"We'll have a crack at beating that," Simon said.

SIMON knew what he was talking about. He had studied all the books and scientific data he could get on rockets. But that he and Ian had

Twenty teenagers are aiming at Outer Space

next on the list past the St. Jim mine course is the month.

The rocket should be ready for launching next spring.

Ian Price, the deputy director, said: "We'll assemble the rocket at my home and take it by bus to the launching ground."

They don't know where that will be yet.

Two purchases in the near future will be the rocket safely back to earth.

Louis Brennan, seven-

teen-year-old chief of the parachute department at from Bournemouth. IOW said: "Of course we're not absolutely confident that we'll get the thing off the ground, but we're going to have a damned good try."

ENTERPRISE

IF ENTERPRISE COULD BE FOR ANYTHING, THE POINT IS TO GET THE BEST RECORD FOR BRITAIN.

This is just ONE example of teenage enterprise.

There are plenty of other teen pioneers all over Britain.

So come on Teen Pagers — let's hear what YOU are doing!

For the first three LP discs vouchers.

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LET OFF STEAM DEPT.

You'd show 'em...

BRODERICK Crawford, tough guy star of TV's "Highway Patrol," is coming to Britain with his two-year-old son, Kim.

And last week I had asked Tom Parry: "What should I show Kim while he's in Britain?"

Tom Parry — message received. Now it's over to you!

This week's top letter comes to us in Braille, from "Shalom." I'm a Here it is:

I'm sure Kim would visit to my school, Bolton House, School for Blind Children, at Seal, Kent.

It is our Sports Day on June 21. We take part in every sport and if Kim came to watch it would be an added incentive for us to excel.

Near to my school is the birthplace of General Wolfe — Melrose Timon, Seal, Kent.

On the Farm

I let him spend a day on an English farm, visit an ordinary secondary school "open day," and join in the fun, spend an evening at a youth club, visit London's Pettit farm, and see Forest Garden. And let his trip be with an Eng-

- The writers of the first three postcards printed here will each receive an LP voucher. For the writers of the rest of the postcards—a guinea each.

lish boy of his own age — to complete the day: a visit to his parents' home, South, Ashmore, Chatham, Kent.

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wonderful gardens at Ken. He should visit the Royal Albert Hall, Scotland Yard, see an Alderman march, and visit the "National Gas Works" — popularly known as the House of Commons. St. David, Mid-Devonshire.

Dial 999! He should visit New the methods of catching criminals used by an unnamed police force — Long, Essex.

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CHANCE

But that was soon solved. They stole to five rights reading them to them to make the various parts of "Nightrider" for nothing.

The firm were amazed at that," Simon said, "but they all agreed to give us a chance whether the rocket worked or not. The total cost will be about £1,000.

Only one part has not yet been "pinned" with a name. The life sciences "tank" of the rocket and its casing will be "Cap 210."

If any firm would like to take this on, Teen Page will put the offer to the rocket boys.

"Nightrider" is almost all the drawing board. Work will



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IS SHE TOO YOUNG FOR LOVE?

Teen Page Problems answered by MARY BROWN

I AM only thirteen, but I have fallen in love. I often see my boy friend but so far we have only had time to say "Hello." Am I too young to like boys seriously? — Louise, Hereford.

You may be very grown-up, thirteen. But even if you are too young to be falling about love, perhaps you have read too many comic stories and it is these you are taking seriously. One day you will look back and smile at your present notions of "love."

MY girl friend and I are fifteen. Although we like dancing and picnics and playing records, we feel we would like to spend some of our spare time doing something useful. Any suggestions? — H. A. Birmingham.

Good for you too. What about the St. John Cadets? — M. J. Birmingham.

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lose my temper when she talks to other boys, but surely it is natural? She has me and she is young too already. We are both sixteen — D. K. Hinton, Hereford.

While you grow gradually out of love or friendship you will never hold them.

1961

This bored me all to tears, so I decided to move back to the Isle of Wight where all my school friends were living. Became a waiter in a hotel in Ryde. Once again revived my interest in science and left my job to spend a few Terms at the Newprot college of Technology studying Aerodynamics.

1963

Opened a little music club in celler in Ryde, which I called the "Diamond" club. It was commonly known as the hole, because the entrance was a hole in a wall about 3 feet high. One prominent guest was Brian Jones from the Rolling Stones, who I didn't get to meet due to drinking with friends at a pub down the road. Due to the noise of motor bikes from the local rockers, the club was closed down, and all the teenagers in Ryde caused an organised demonstration in the streets to try and get the club back.

1963

Just before the club closed, I stood for the local council as the Liberal candidate, and lost 3 to 1 to the conservative, an Italian ice cream man.

**Isle of Wight Times**  
WIGHT HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE  
 WIGHT ISLANDER, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 1963

<p><b>MARGARET'S</b>  <i>Special</i>  <b>Sale</b>      Commencing FRIDAY, JULY 26th      41 West Bevoise St.      110 SOUTH STREET, RYDE</p> <p>Are you ready for the Extra Visitor?</p> <p>At Your Local Furnishers  <b>CASTLES</b> Furnishing Stores      110 SOUTH STREET, RYDE</p> <p>RYDE BIRMINGHAM CENTRE ELECTRIC</p> <p>WEST WARD</p> <p>To-day is  <b>Polling Day</b>      8 a.m. to 8 p.m.</p> <p>IF YOU WANT THINGS YOU NEED EARLY AND CONSIDERATELY, WITH REFERENCE FOR YOUR BODY</p> <p><b>VOTE FOR HORNBY</b></p> <p>RYDE STATION      110 SOUTH STREET, RYDE      COMMENCING FRIDAY</p>	<p><b>Renwick's</b>      16/18 NORTH STREET, RYDE</p> <p><b>YOUNGS</b>      THE TOWN SPECIALIST      110 SOUTH STREET, RYDE</p> <p><b>SALE</b>      COMMENCING      FRIDAY, JULY 26th  <b>THORNELOES</b>      4, BRISTOL STREET, RYDE</p> <p><b>GENUINE REDUCTIONS</b>      in      Summer Dresses, Coats, Suits, Blouses,      Bathing, Shirts, Stockings, etc.</p>	<p><b>FINAL REDUCTIONS</b>      in      COATS      SUMMER FROCKS      SUITS &amp; SKIRTS      DRESS MATERIALS      CHILDREN'S DEPT.      BLOUSES &amp; KNITWEAR      MILLINERY</p> <p><b>Dabell's</b>      Newport 2122</p> <p><b>RYDE MODEL SHOP</b>      110 SOUTH STREET, RYDE</p> <p><b>FISHING TACKLE - ALL TOPPS</b>      Bait Rods Reels etc.      Please see full of stocks</p> <p>RYDE BIRMINGHAM CENTRE ELECTRIC</p> <p>WEST WARD</p> <p>Vote for  <b>MINGHELLA   X</b></p> <p>To-day      Monday, July 26th</p>
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Being completely broke, my Mother collected me from the Island, where I had slept a few nights on the sea wall, and other more unspeakable places (Bloody freezing in October!) and took me back to relatives in Brighton. She suggested in no uncertain terms that I should join the army, and having no other alternative at the time, I signed on with the Royal Artillery.

1964

Stationed in Bielefeld, West Germany, where I started a beat group called "The Demons" with a few other soldiers.

1965

The army tried to break the group up, so we all went absent without leave and drove overnight to England to complain to our members of Parliament. Before the army noticed that we were gone, we had crossed the channel and were in London. We even slept in the army owned "Union Jack Club" The next day found us at the house of commons complaining to our MP; and we then drove to Wales, to the farm where our rythm guitarists parents lived. His father introduced us to Lady Megan Lloyd George who invited us to her mansion for tea and biscuits. We all complained strongly about our group being split up and she promised to put in a word for us. We then returned to Germany and reported to our unit, where the commanding officer was gradually climbing up his office wall!! A few months later I went absent again, this time alone, and tried to find a new group in England without much success. I worked for two weeks in a coalyard and then being broke again put my last money on the Grand National, which I won, therefore having enough money to return to my unit again.

1966

After this escapade, they posted me to another unit in Celle, West Germany. I soon became the lead guitarist and singer of the Hanover based German rock band "The Anyones". I decided to take another "holiday" from the

army and just disappeared! I stayed with the "Anyones", later formed my own group, "The Jon Symon set", and was eventually caught in the spring of 1970 after being absent without leave for four years. I was only 40 kilometers away from my unit all the time!!

1970

3 months in Colchester military corrective training centre and discharge. I returned to Germany to my fiancée, whom I met while I was "on the run". I then spent a year at art school in Hanover and started my one man band "Rasputin". Spent the seventies gigging, and doing TV and radio. The first time in my life that I started to earn a decent living.

1983

Rock Ballet "Warlock" performed in West Germany. Television, Open air performance on the 1 June in front of 6500 people. Became a stage hypnotist, and played British army camps.

1984

Rock Ballet "Lady Macbeth" in West Germany. Similar success.

1985

Started my one man band again and wrote my new Rock Ballet "Stonehenge".

1986

First test gigs for Rasputin in England.

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