

Matthew Symonds

Matthew John Symonds (born 20 December 1953) is a British journalist and, since 2018, the executive director of the Larry Ellison Foundation. He was a co-founder of *The Independent* in 1986.

Born in 1953,^[1] Symonds is the natural son of John Beavan,^[2] who at the time was London editor of *The Guardian*,^[3] and BBC World Service broadcaster Anne Symonds.^{[2][4]} He worked for the Mirror group, the *Financial Times*, and *The Daily Telegraph*, which he joined in November 1981 as economics leader writer, before in 1986 becoming a co-founder of *The Independent*,^[5] with Andreas Whittam Smith and Stephen Glover. The three had worked together at *The Daily Telegraph* and had all left the newspaper towards the end of Lord Hartwell's ownership of it.^[6]

After leaving *The Independent*, Symonds was appointed as strategy director of BBC World Service Television, then from 1996 to 2018 was on the staff of *The Economist*. While there, he received the Wincott Prize for financial journalism in 1998, and went on to serve as the magazine's political editor and technology editor, before his last job for it, as defence and diplomatic editor.^[7]

Symonds said of himself in 1996 that he was an economic liberal, believing in the market, but also in individual liberty and freedom. He wrote that "...the only way in which you can find efficient and humane solutions to problems is to give people as much information and as much power over their own lives as possible."^[5]

Symonds has a wife and three children.^[5] In 1988, he had a daughter, Carrie Symonds, with Josephine McAfee, a lawyer at *The Independent*.^[8] Josephine Mcaffee (née Lawrence) was previously married to Patrick Mcaffee, whom she divorced in 1978. She was not married to Mr. Mcaffee at the time Carrie Symonds was born. Patrick Mcaffee had since married his wife Jane, and had a daughter Clare, in 1982.

Selected publication

- *Softwar: an intimate portrait of Larry Ellison and Oracle* (Simon & Schuster, 2003, ISBN 978-0743225052)^[9]

References

1. Mr Matthew John Symonds (<https://companycheck.co.uk/director/906750862/MR-MATTHEW-JOHN-SYMONDS/summary>) at companycheck.co.uk, accessed 24 June 2019
2. Anne Symonds, Broadcaster (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2017/03/06/anne-symonds-broadcaster-obituary>) (obituary) in *The Daily Telegraph*, 6 March 2017

Matthew Symonds	
Born	Matthew John Symonds <div>20 December 1953</div>
Occupation	Journalist
Known for	Co-founder of <i>The Independent</i>
Children	4, including <u>Carrie Johnson</u>
Parents	<u>John Beavan, Baron Ardwick</u> (father) <u>Anne Symonds</u> (mother)
Relatives	<u>Richard Symonds</u> (stepfather) <u>Boris Johnson</u> (son-in-law)

3. Terence Lancaster, Obituary: Lord Ardwick (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/obituary-lord-ardwick-1384472.html>), *The Independent*, 19 August 1994
4. 2018 "Symonds, Matthew John, (born 20 Dec. 1953), Executive Director, Lawrence Ellison Foundation, since 2018." WHO'S WHO & WHO WAS WHO. 24 Jul. 2019
5. Isabel Wolff, How We Met (<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/how-we-met-5628226.html>) in *The Independent* dated with 18 February 1996, accessed 24 June 2019
6. Stephen Glover, The Independent, reflections on the last twenty years (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/the-independent-reflections-on-the-last-20-years-418944.html>) in *The Independent* dated 6 October 2006, accessed 24 June 2019
7. Matthew Symonds IISS Trustee (<https://www.iiss.org/governance/the-trustees/matthew-symonds>) at [iiss.org](https://www.iiss.org), accessed 24 June 2019
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9. Matthew Symonds (<https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Matthew-Symonds/16833780>) at [simonandschuster.com/authors](https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors), accessed 24 June 2019

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