

MALAGA

SUR 7

Detenidos cinco británicos implicados en la desaparición de un noruego

JOSE M. ALDAY

La policía ha detenido a cinco británicos al estar presuntamente implicados en la desaparición de un súbdito noruego residente en Marbella, cuya vivienda fue encontrada con manchas de sangre perteneciente a su inquilino, del que no se tiene noticias desde primeros de año, según ha conocido este periódico de fuentes cercanas a la investigación. Los británicos fueron detenidos en Marbella, Calahonda y

Tenerife, adonde se desplazaron inspectores del grupo de Delincuencia Internacional de la comisaría de Marbella, que lleva las investigaciones del caso.

Tres de los británicos fueron detenidos cuando circulaban por la Costa en un vehículo Mercedes, propiedad del desaparecido. Algunos de ellos tienen antecedentes por tráfico de estupefacientes. En su poder se les encontraron también efectos personales del desaparecido.

El noruego Torbjorn Heia, de

unos treinta años de edad, residía a las afueras de Marbella, en la urbanización Marbesa de esta localidad. Aficionado a la música rock, era al parecer propietario de una discoteca en la Costa del Sol. En su vivienda, que fue encontrada revuelta, la policía halló abundantes manchas de sangre que, una vez analizada, se comprobó pertenecían al grupo sanguíneo del desaparecido.

El móvil del robo parece descartado, aunque la policía no se ha pronunciado al respecto.

COSTA DEL SOL

SUR in English 11

Britons detained in connection with missing Norwegian case

J.M.A./The police have arrested five Britons suspected of being involved in the disappearance of a Norwegian man, resident in Marbella, missing since the beginning of the year. The missing man's home was found to contain bloods stains belonging to him.

The Britons were arrested in Marbella, Calahonda and Tenerife by officers from the Marbella international crime squad, who are investigating the case.

Three of the Britons were

detained whilst driving a Mercedes belonging to the missing man. They were also found to be in possession of some of the Norwegian's personal effects. Several of the arrested have police records for drug offences.

Norwegian Torbjorn Heia, 30, lived in the outskirts of Marbella, in Urbanización Marbesa. He owned a discotheque on the Costa del Sol.

Although the house was found in disarray the police appear to have ruled out robbery as a possible motive.

Linda con el cantante Paul Young y el escritor de la canción Barry Mason

Los fans de rock y las estrellas del espectáculo se unieron en ayuda del guitarrista de Stockport Gary Owens (mi nombre fue escrito por seguridad como me fue enviado a la cárcel con un nombre diferente), encarcelado sin cargos en España durante 19 Meses. Más de 500 personas asistieron al concierto Rock for Justice organizado por la cantante Linda Lamon en Coco Savannah's.



■ Linda with singer Paul Young and writer Barry Mason

**Rockin'
to free
Gary!**

ROCK fans and showbiz stars got together in aid of Stockport guitarist ~~_____~~, jailed without charge in Spain for 19 months. More than 500 people attended the Rock for Justice concert organised by singer Linda Lamon at Coco Savannah's.

Rock star quizzed in murder r

EXCLUSIVE

By John Prince

FORMER Manchester rock star Gary Owens was being quizzed in Spain today about a death mystery in Marbella.

Three other Britons were also in cells in the millionaires' playground on the Costa del Sol to face questions from a judge.

And in Stockport, Gary's shocked dad said: "I can't believe it — it's the first I'd heard of it."

Gary, a long-haired 29-year-old ex-Bramhall High School pupil, who was in the band A to Z ten years ago, was arrested in Tenerife and flown to Marbella.

The band was on the books of Manchester's big entertainment agency, Kennedy Street Enterprises.

The organisation's boss, Danny Besh, said today: "I'm shocked to hear about Gary. They were a very promising band and were with us for a couple of years."

Adventurer Gary was arrested at an apartment on Tenerife by police with a warrant from Marbella.

He was flown with a police escort to Malaga and transferred to a cell in Marbella. Police said they believed he was bound for Brazil.

Bloodstains

Spanish detectives are probing the disappearance a month ago of wealthy 33-year-old Torbjorn Heia, who lived in a luxury villa on the outskirts of Marbella.

The businessman and musician vanished from his bloodstained home and police believe he was robbed and murdered.

Two Londoners and a man from Glasgow were arrested with Gary.

Gary's divorced father, Derek, said: "I heard he was in Argentina. But I just can't see him being involved in murder."

"He had been in trouble here with

Costa death quiz for Briton

Gary Owens, 29, was arrested on the Costa del Sol today. He is being questioned about the disappearance of Torbjorn Heia, 33, who was last seen a month ago. Owens was in the band A to Z, which was managed by Kennedy Street Enterprises.

Flashback to yesterday's Evening News

the police. But he isn't violent and I can't believe he would be involved in killing."

Gary was a bright schoolboy who, said friends, could have gone to university but chose instead a course in management and catering for which he won an award. And he was offered a job at Buckingham Palace.

But he turned to music with the band that included his older brother David.

They made albums for the Polydor label and toured with major bands such as Black Sabbath.

Gary's father said: "I believe his wife is somewhere in Wales and they have a daughter that I haven't seen."

"He and I have not been on good terms."



New life-saver for heart team

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AUG/91 M.E.N.



Gary Owens ... arrested in Tenerife

Murder quiz man fled UK

By John Prince

FORMER Manchester rock star Gary Owens, who is being quizzed over a murder in Spain, fled Britain while facing deception charges.

Now he is in jail in Marbella on the Costa del Sol, facing questions about the disappearance of a Norwegian disco owner.

Mr Owens, 29, a former Bramhall High School boy and later lead guitar and vocalist with recording band A to Z, was arrested in Tenerife and flown by police escort to Marbella.

He and four other Britons are being questioned by a Spanish woman judge

about the disappearance and suspected death of Torbjorn Heia, 33.

Heia vanished from his bloodstained luxury villa in Marbella.

Mr Owens and an American were last year charged at Cumbria with offences of obtaining goods by deception.

Owens was bailed and left the country for Spain.

His wife and child are believed to be in Wales.

His father, Mr Derek Owens, said in Stockport today: "I am baffled by the whole business.

"Whatever Gary's troubles with the police in the past, he just isn't the type to be involved in a murder."

— Editor.

NOV/7/91

So sorry for Gary

STOCKPORT
EXPRESS

2
TIMES

I see that Gary Owens has written to you for help in his fight to prove his innocence as he languishes in a Spanish hell jail.

I feel so sorry for this young man and hope we can do something for him. He is lucky to have his girlfriend in Spain to support him.

I know somebody who was in a Spanish jail for two days who said it seemed like two years. As Gary said, the conditions were appalling.

I will be interested to know how this young man gets on. My prayers are said for him.

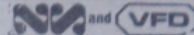
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STOCKPORT TIMES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1991

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A MESSAGE FROM HELL

Karen's crunch!

Spanish
murder
rap man
sends us
a plea



Gary Owens

by Jon Keighren

BRAMHALL rocker Gary Owens has written to the Times with a plea for cash to help his fight for innocence as he languishes in a Spanish "Hell" jail.

Owens, 29, is accused of being involved in the murder of a Norwegian businessman. But he has not been charged as he enters his EIGHTH month in prison.

Torjorn Heim, 34, of Marbella, disappeared from his blood-stained villa last May, but his body has never been found.

Owens says he has found a lawyer, but cannot afford to pay him: "He speaks English, which is great, and has promised to get me bail, when he gets some money," he writes.

"There is no evidence against me. I just do not know what is going on and I am very frightened."

He was arrested in Tenerife by armed police and is now in prison in Granada, awaiting trial, which could take up to three years.

Owens, says his only pleasures are visits from his girlfriend, Jane McCready, who has moved to Spain to be near him, and regular copies of the Stockport Times and Stockport Express which are sent to his prison cell.

In an impassioned letter, bearing the address "The Pits of Hell", Owens said: "Many people wait here in appalling conditions for trial for up to three to four years — longer than their sentence would ever have been."

He was brought up by his parents, now divorced, at Colwyn Road, Bramhall. He was a keen guitarist, who formed the group A II Z and made successful records.

But his glamorous lifestyle has now led him to a Spanish prison pleading for cash to pay his brief.

Something
in Leather

Kershaw

Quality
Leathers at
the best
prices

Rock man



Gary Owens ... "completely innocent"

Murder inquiry leaves Gary in the dark

By John Prince

SEPT 14/91 M.E.N.

DESPERATE ex-rock star Gary Owens, facing a murder charge in Spain, said today from his jail cell: "Please help me — I could be here for four years awaiting a trial."

The brilliant former Manchester heavy metal guitarist whose band topped the charts said in Granada: "I am completely innocent of any murder — I couldn't hurt anyone."

The 29-year-old former Bramhall High School pupil said: "It's a nightmare. I don't even have a lawyer, money or anything."

And he appealed for copies of the *Manchester Evening News* to relieve the monotony of his prison existence.

Gary, whose band A II Z toured with super groups like Black Sabbath and Iron Maiden and whose music topped the UK heavy metal charts, was arrested five months ago in Tenerife.

He was flown with armed murder squad detectives to mainland Spain to help inquiries into the murder of a Norwegian millionaire who lived in a villa in Marbella.

While he was in jail in Marbella, Gary smuggled a hacksaw into jail and escaped but was later arrested.

Gary and another Briton face charges of killing the Norwegian whose body has not been found.

He told how, before his music career began, he took a course in hotel management in Buxton and was offered a job at Buckingham Palace.

But, he says, instead he started the band with his brother Dave.

He admits he was jailed in Britain for one and a half years for fraud offences.

And he married a girl he met in Stockport with whom he had a daughter before the family flew to Malaga.

Later his wife returned to Britain with the child — and Gary hasn't seen them since.

Gary told of his life living on a luxury yacht in Puerto Banus. He befriended a rich Californian girl who later flew him to Rome and took him on helicopter trips to Florence and Venice.

And the restless musician began his world travelling with trips to Brazil, Thailand, Switzerland and the south of France.

Costa death quiz

By John Prince

BRITISH rockstar Gary Owens was today facing a murder charge in the Spanish south. He is alleged to have killed a Norwegian millionaire who lived in a villa in Marbella. Owens was today facing a murder charge in the Spanish south. He is alleged to have killed a Norwegian millionaire who lived in a villa in Marbella. Owens was today facing a murder charge in the Spanish south. He is alleged to have killed a Norwegian millionaire who lived in a villa in Marbella.

FLASHBACK to the news of the arrest

Gary, whose divorced mum lives in Stockport, said he met the other Briton in the murder inquiry and had told him where his Norwegian friend lived. He also agreed to sell any goods stolen from the millionaire's unoccupied villa.

"I thought Tor, the Norwegian, had gone away to Britain, but I was told they were investigating his disappearance," said Gary today. "I didn't want to be involved in any police inquiry so I went to Tenerife."

And that was where detectives arrested him. He said: "Conditions here are appalling. Rats come into the cells. The food is terrible and some prisoners have Aids."

Today his girlfriend, who returned to Britain, was travelling to see Gary.

He says he cannot contact his lawyer and has heard nothing from anyone concerning the inquiry.

"I've been here four months and have been under arrest for five months."

"I could be here waiting up to four years for trial and then get up to 20 years for supposedly knowing the other man was going to kill Tor. I don't even know what I'm charged with."

Hits that could be lifeline for jailed rock star

By John Prince

SONG writer Barry Mason has offered to present a show to help a former Stockport rock star jailed in Spain.

The composer says he will present a concert of his hits, including Tom Jones's Delilah and Engelbert Humperdinck's Last Waltz. And all the proceeds would go to help the battle by Gary Owens, jailed without charge for 15 months in a death probe.

Barry is urging the Spanish authorities to charge Owens, or free him.

Owens, 30, who ran a chart-topping band, has been held in Gran-



■ Gary: 15 months without a charge

ada and Malaga jails, suspected of implication in a murder without a body.

Spanish detectives believe that a Norwegian millionaire who lived in a Marbella villa was murdered.

Owens, who knew the Norwegian, denies any involvement in the mystery disappearance.

Wigan-born Barry Mason, who wrote hits like Love Me Tonight and Les Bicyclettes de Belsize plus songs for Barbra Streisand and The Drifters, encouraged Gary's career some years ago.

Owens ran A 11 Z, who went to No 1 in the UK heavy metal charts and toured with the supergroups.

Barry, who now lives in London, said: "I would be glad to put on a show to help him if someone wanted to organise it."

Gary's mum, Mrs Phyllis Owens, said at her home in Davenport, Stockport: "It's a kind gesture by Mr Mason. So many former friends seemed to have turned their backs on Gary."

Prison switch agony for Briton in death probe

6/JAN/92 M.E.N.

FORMER rock star Gary Owens, locked up for nine months in a Spanish jail in a murder inquiry, has been suddenly switched to a new Costa prison.

But his mother, Mrs Phyllis Owens, of Davenport, Stockport, was told nothing of the move until a call to her home from Gary's girlfriend.

"I didn't know where he had gone or why he had been transferred. I couldn't sleep and I wept with despair. It's appalling treatment," she said.

Gary, 29, former Bramhall high school boy, was arrested in connection with the disappearance and presumed murder of a wealthy Norwegian in Marbella.

But he still does not know what charges he could face.

He was first jailed in Marbella, and later switched to Granada. But now he has been taken to Malaga.

Gary's band A 11 Z topped the UK heavy metal charts in the 80s and toured with the superstar bands. He was rated a brilliant guitarist and writer.

His girlfriend, dark-haired Jayne McCready, who went to live

in Granada to be close to Gary's prison, told of her shock when he was spirited out of the city centre jail.

At her Granada apartment she said: "I saw him in the morning on a visit and had an arrangement for a further visit in the afternoon. When I got there Gary had left flowers and chocolates for me and I was told he had gone, but they wouldn't say where."

"Later I got a friend to talk to someone in Spain and found out

he had gone to Malaga." Jayne took a two-hour bus ride the next day to Malaga to see Gary.

But he told her he didn't know why he had been moved.

"He doesn't like the jail there and had got used to the Granada set up. But it's a disgrace that he is still inside without being charged after all this time."

Mrs Owens said: "I wouldn't have known he had been moved if Jayne hadn't told me. Gary's no saint and he has been in trouble with the law. But he is no killer — and his treatment there has been appalling."



■ Baffled: Owens does not know why he has been moved

MP'S QUIZ ON ROCK STAR HELD IN SPAIN

AN MP is asking the Foreign Office to investigate the case of a Stockport man held for nine months in a Spanish jail on a death probe.

Stockport MP Tony Favell visited the Davenport home of the mother of ex-rock star Gary Owens.

And after talking to her about her son he told her: "I will make urgent inquiries into this to find out why he hasn't even been charged."

Mrs Phyllis Owens, Gary's worried mum, said: "No-one should be treated like this. Gary knows nothing about the case and doesn't even know officially why he is in jail."

Owens, 29, a former Bramhall High School student, used to run — with his brother David — the chart-topping rock band A II Z.

They were No.1 in the UK heavy metal charts in the 80s and toured with super bands such as Black Sabbath and Iron Maiden.

But when the band broke up, Gary became involved in criminal activities.

He went to Marbella in Spain and was arrested after the strange disappearance of a rich Norwegian from his villa.

Later Gary was arrested in Tenerife and since then has been in prison, first in



■ Gary Owens: In jail

the body of the Norwegian. But they believe he was killed in the course of a raid on his villa.

Gary has denied any involvement.

Mr Favell said: "I will ask the Foreign Office to tell me just what is happening to Gary and if and when he is to be charged with some offence."



■ Mum Phyllis Owens and MP Tony Favell

By John Prince

Malaga and then Granada. Recently he was switched suddenly to Malaga prison. Neither his mum nor girlfriend Jayne McCreedy, from Scunthorpe, who took a flat near the prison, were told about the move. Police have failed to find

Star 'set up' on murder charge

By John Prince

ROCK guitarist Gary Owens, locked in a "nightmare" Spanish jail on a murder charge, says: "I didn't do it — I've been set up." And he has told his mother, Mrs Phyllis Owens, of Davenport, Stockport: "I could be stuck here for ever."

The brilliant Bramhall musician, whose band A II Z topped the heavy metal charts in the 80s and toured with superstar bands, was arrested three months ago in Tenerife.

He was then flown to custody in the millionaire playground of Marbella in Spain. He and other Britons are accused of killing a Norwegian disco owner at his luxury Marbella villa.

But no body has been found, despite extensive searches by police.

Dreadful

Gary, 29, a former Bramhall high school pupil, was first jailed in Marbella, but is now in prison in Granada.

His mum, a divorced catering worker, flew to Spain to see him.

"It was a dreadful shock," she said today. "I saw him behind a glass barrier. He had black rings under his eyes, was white as a ghost and thin. He can't eat the food and has been to hospital twice with food poisoning."

"His lawyer can't speak English and doesn't go to see him. He desperately needs proper legal help."

"The Norwegian was a six-footer and Gary is very small. I know he couldn't kill anyone — it isn't his style. He would

G-Mex block on rockers

VETERAN group Status Quo has had to scrap plans to let Manchester fans rock until they drop for charity.

The band, celebrating its 25th anniversary, wanted to start a 12-hour dash round the country from the city's G-Mex in September. It plans to play four venues and raise £250,000.

But Status Quo found the centre was already booked for the Hotel, Pub, Club and Catering Show.

Now the scramble will start in Sheffield and move on to Glasgow, Birmingham and Wembley.

During the dash — monitored for the Guinness Book of Records — the group will travel 850 miles.

run a mile from physical trouble. He has been in trouble at home with the police, but certainly not for violence.

"He and his friends in Spain think the Norwegian may have gone on the run."

"He had said he was going on holiday, he had money troubles and I was told his girlfriend was pregnant."

But Mrs Owens says Gary may have been responsible for a raid on the villa.

She says he gave the address of the Norwegian to another Briton he met and the villa was burgled. Gary bought stolen goods and police found some of them in his rented Marbella apartment.

There were blood stains in the Norwegian's villa. But, says Mrs Owens, "they were only spots of blood".

Consular officials in Spain have told Mrs Owens that her son's ordeal could go on for years.



GARY OWENS ... plea from 'nightmare' Spanish jail

Help me plea by the rocker locked up in a Spanish jail

by Jon Keighren

BRAMHALL rocker Gary Owens has made an impassioned plea for help as he enters his sixth month in a Spanish prison, which could stretch to four years before a trial date.

Owens, 29, is suspected of being involved in the murder of a Norwegian businessman — but has not been charged, and no body has yet been found by the Spanish police.

In a letter from his cell in Granada he says: "The person who DID commit the murder is in prison in Malaga. The police are accusing me of either sending him to do it, or knowing he was going to do it. But I am completely innocent and should be set free."

In his six months in prison Gary has had food poisoning twice, made a failed escape bid and not spoken to a solicitor.

He is suspected of being involved in the murder of Torbjorn Heia, 33, of Marbella, who disappeared from his blood-stained villa in May.

Police think he was robbed, murdered and his body dumped in the Spanish countryside.

Gary was arrested in Tenerife by armed police and flown to Malaga and then on to Marbella.

He says: "I managed to escape and was on the run for 24 hours before giving myself up."

'Injustice'

"Then I was moved to Granada Prison. At Marbella I even had rats in my cell. A terrible injustice is being done to me."

Gary's girlfriend Jayne McCready of Scunthorpe was also arrested with Gary in Tenerife, but later released. "She flew to Granada on Friday to visit him."

She said: "We were kept in abysmal conditions — the food was OK, but I wasn't able to wash for three days. It was grotesque. My worst nightmare."

"I am looking forward to seeing Gary, but I have no idea how long I'll be able to stay."

Mrs Maite Machado of the Prisoners' Abroad organisation said Gary could be in the Spanish cells for quite a time without trial because of the difference in their legal system.

Foreign

She said: "A lawyer will be appointed for Gary, but only a week or two before a full trial, which is unfortunate."

Mrs Machado also says that prison conditions in Spain often leave a lot to be desired: "I do not know Granada very well, but I find that Spanish prison guards have little or no training and can be quite brutal, particularly with foreign prisoners."



GARY OWENS

**'I could
be waiting
four years
for trial'**

—says Owens

The organisation has pledged to keep in touch with Gary and send over English books for him to read.

Gary was brought up by his parents, now divorced, who lived in Colwyn Road, Bramhall.

He was a keen guitarist who formed the group "AIIZ". His father Joseph now runs a building firm in Cheadle Hulme.

BODY FOUND IN ROCKER PROBE

By John Prince

POLICE in Spain holding a Stockport rock musician have recovered the body of a missing businessman at the centre of their inquiry.

And in a bizarre move, Gary Owens, held for one-and-a-half years in Spanish jails, viewed a police film of the body being found.

The victim, a wealthy Norwegian who lived in a luxury villa near million-aire Marbella, vanished nearly two years ago.

Owens, 30, whose mum lives in Davenport,



■ Jailed rock star Gary Owens and his girlfriend Jayne

Stockport, was an influential rock musician and knew the dead man. He was arrested in connection with what detectives say was murder.

But he has vigorously denied involvement in the death as he languished in prisons in Granada, and now in Ma-

laga, without being charged. His girlfriend Jayne, who adopted his surname, has been campaigning with Gary's mum for his release.

Following a tip-off, police found the Norwegian's body in a well at a village near Marbella.

Jayne said today:

"They have found the body, but the situation with Gary is still the same. He remains in prison and we are struggling to get funds for a lawyer.

"It is incredible that he hasn't even been charged.

"He told me they showed him the film of the finding of the body. It seems bizarre and I can't understand it."

Owens, a former Bramhall High School boy, with his brother ran the band A II Z who were No.1 in the UK's heavy metal charts.

An official at the British Consulate in Malaga said: "So far as we are aware there has been no further development in Mr Owens' case."

Wednesday, October 6, 1993

Page 5

Target of the Costa hit-men

ROCKER Gary Owens is haunted by fears that Costa crooks are out to silence him for ever.

He is terrified that hit-men will kill him because he knows too much about the case of a murdered Norwegian club owner and other crimes on Spain's sunshine coast.

Gary, 32, of Stockport, a former Bramhall high school pupil, was freed last night after 30 months in Spanish jails.

Today he said: "You can't believe what I have been through. The prisons were hellish. Twice I was close to finishing myself. There were savages in there. They had access to knives. But now that I'm free I have these new dangers to face.

"I'm afraid for Jayne and myself. There are people who will kill me for what I may know. I think I know how the Norwegian was killed and why."

Gary knew the dead man, Forbjorn Heia, whom he believes was involved in drug deals, because he had been invited to recording sessions at his

EXCLUSIVE

By John Prince
in Jaen, Spain

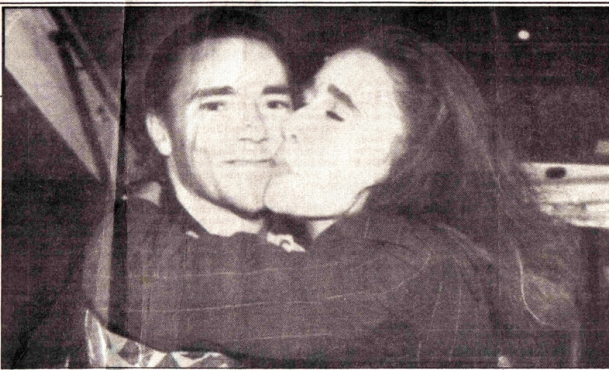
luxury villa near Marbella. Heia's body was found down a well. Gary admits he obtained a credit card which belonged to the victim. But he has always denied involvement in the death.

A judge ordered his release because there was no evidence of his implication in the murder.

Jayne went with court officials and Manchester Evening News representatives for her tearful reunion at the jail. But she wept despairingly when officials told her the release papers weren't there. It was only after the awful 12-hour wait in a stark court building and long calls to her lawyer in Marbella that the documents arrived.

Gary played with super-bands Def Leopard, Titan, AC-DC, Black Sabbath and Manchester's 10cc and Sad Cafe.

His mum, Phyllis, of Davenport, Stockport, said: "He may have been a bit of a villain in the past. But he wasn't capable of violence. I knew he wasn't involved in any murder."



■ A kiss at last for Gary and Jayne... But he believes their lives are in danger because of what he knows

Band aid for jailed star

A STOCKPORT pop group is bidding to raise funds for fellow musician Gary Owens, held in Spanish jails for 18 months without being charged.

Rick Raven, alias Gary Clarke, who holds the Guinness Book of Records title of "Fastest Guitarist in the World", will put on a special show with his new band The Touch at the Poynton Folk Centre on August 29.

Rick, who went to the same school as Gary — Bramhall High — is aiming to raise more than £1,000 to present to Gary's mother Phyllis.

She says more than £8,000 legal costs are urgently needed to help her son.

The body of a missing wealthy Norwegian business man, whom Gary knew, was found in a well at a village near Marbella. Gary was arrested in connection with his death.

But Gary, who played in the top heavy metal

band A 11 Z, has vigorously denied any involvement and has been kept in prisons in Granada and Magala without being charged.

Rick said: "Any other local bands who would like to contribute to the concert are welcome."

"Gary has almost died three times and his girlfriend Jayne is out there working in a bar to give him support."



■ JAILHOUSE ROCK ... Rick (centre) with The Touch



■ Gary Owens: No charge

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■ IN JAIL: Gary Owens

Mayor's plea for rock star held in Spanish jail

A ROCK star from Stockport, who is being held in a Spanish jail, was given new hope today.

The Mayor of Stockport has called on his influential counterpart in Torremolinos to help the 29-year-old guitarist Gary Owens.

Coun Tom Jackson also wants to know why Owens has never been charged.

Owens, whose band A H Z played with heavy metal giants Iron Maiden and Black Sabbath during the 80s, was arrested 10 months ago following the disappearance and presumed murder of a wealthy Norwegian rightelub boss.

Owens has always protested his innocence.

Mr Jackson said today: "It's a great travesty of justice."

"There should be an urgent inquiry into why he's been kept locked up."

Meanwhile, he has appealed to the Mayor of Torremolinos, Miguel Escalona, who he met during a civic visit last year.

"Mayors in Spain are very influential and are in control of the police force," he said.

"I can only hope Mr Escalona can do something."

New hope for star in jail ordeal



■ Gary Owens: Nightmare



■ Tony Favell: Stepped in

By John Prince

ROCK star Gary Owens was today given hope of an end to his ten-month jail nightmare.

The 29-year-old former chart topper from Stockport has been held in Spanish prisons without charge.

He was arrested in connection with the disappearance and possible murder of a Norwegian businessman who vanished from his burgled villa in Marbella.

Stockport MP Tony Favell took up his case, and after visiting Gary's mother in Davenport,

contacted the Foreign Office.

Now, Foreign Office Under-Secretary Mark Lennox-Boyd says Gary should know soon whether he is to stand trial.

And if the case is dismissed, he could ask for damages.

A Malaga court has told the British consulate that the file is about to go to the public prosecutor for a decision on charges.

Mr Favell said today: "It seems extraordinary that someone can be arrested and wait all this time without a charge. Now a decision looks likely very soon."

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LAMON... prison interview

Thank God

EXCLUSIVE by LINDA LAMON

A DARING operation to smuggle one of our reporters into the best-protected jail in Europe paid off last night.

For we came face-to-face with a young man left to rot there.

We BLUFFED our way in by showing them a letter saying we were one of his close relatives.

As we walked along a heavily-guarded prison corridor Gary

Owens whispered: "Thank God you're here. Please clear my name." His 19-month nightmare in a Spanish prison began after the death of a wealthy nightclub owner.

The ordeal has left Gary, 31, shattered.

Ransacked

Pony-tailed Gary was arrested with girlfriend Jayne McCready during a holiday on Tenerife.

A Norwegian businessman called Torbjorn Heja, 33, had gone missing. Police found his luxury villa outside Marbella on the mainland ransacked and

spattered with blood.

His body was found in a nearby well only a few weeks ago.

Jayne, of Scunthorpe, was later released but Gary has been caged in Malaga Prison for 19 months without charge.

His lawyer says the police were determined to keep Gary in prison while the body was missing.

Two other men have been questioned about the murder after they were found with Mr Heja's missing Mercedes sports car. They were also released but the Spanish authorities refused to let Gary go.

Support

And last night it was revealed they could hold him for up to **FOUR YEARS** without charge.

In an emotional interview Gary told us last night: "My life is in danger."

"I have been attacked with a knife and now they don't let me near any other prison pieces of my life. I can't go on for much longer."

"I have been refused bail and under Spanish law they can keep me here for up to four years."

"I am in total despair. It's only Jayne's visits that keep me going."

Guitarist Gary, whose band A li Z topped the heavy metal charts in the eighties, toured with rock supergroups Iron

WE BREAK INTO ROCK STAR'S JAIL HELLHOLE



BAR-WORK... the pub where Gary's girlfriend Jayne works

willing to defend me, but that is going to cost £4,000.

"I have lived this nightmare for 19 months without any charges being put to me."

"I can't sink much lower. All the hope of freedom I once had seems lost."

Window

A guard signalled our meeting was over and with tears in his eyes, Gary, from Stockport, Cheshire, stood up slowly.

He said: "I'm innocent. Help me win my release... please."

Fifteen miles from the grim prison Jayne, 24, serves drinks at a bar in Fuengirola, used by the cast of the sinking BBC soap Eldorado.

They met in a club on Christmas Eve two years ago when they were both working in Calahonda.

After a whirlwind

romance they went on holiday to Tenerife. Days before they were due to fly back to Spain, Jayne swooped and arrested them.

Holding a gold cross, Gary gave her, she said, "I was held for three days in Tenerife in squalor."

"Ten police interrogated me in a cell with a hole in the floor for a toilet."

"They moved me to Marbella with Gary and then released me."

"He is no way involved in anything like that. He's sensitive, kind and loving."

"I stay here to give Gary the support he needs. I'm all he's got."

"I am now very concerned for him. Each week I see him he is getting worse. He has lost so much weight."

"He's an intelligent person and a brilliant musician. He has written

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a special song for me in prison. I will be his wife one day", said Jayne, who has changed her name to Owens.

She said: "I proposed to him in a letter and when I visited him later he said 'yes'."

"All I could see was his face through a tiny square window, but I will treasure that moment forever."

Last night Gary's Spanish lawyer Manuel Limarez said: "This case has gone on long enough."

"Under Spanish law Gary could be held without charge for up to four years."

"I cannot go into details of the case, but I can say that although Mr Heja went missing more than 19 months ago his body was found only a few weeks ago."

Chance

"As long as the body was missing the police were determined to keep hold of the suspect."

"Even though the body has been found the police say they are still continuing enquiries."

"I do not want to jeopardise Gary's chance of freedom, but within the next week I will be applying to a judge."

"It is now about time for the police to issue a charge or release him."



● **HELL-HOLE** ... the Malaga prison where Gary Owens has been held for 19 months

● **LONELY GIRL** ... Jayne's standing by her rock star fiancé Gary, pictured inset



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I'm proud of my girl

BRAVE Jayne McCready's mum, Pat Fordham, last night paid tribute to her daughter.

She said last night: "I am proud of my girl for standing by Gary."

"She is having to live rough to scrimp and save enough money for the two of them to survive."

"It's a disgrace that someone could be held for so long without any charges."

"He doesn't get decent food in prison and Jayne has to take him food and toiletries."

Pat and husband Dick, who live

in Scunthorpe, Humberside, are praying the ordeal will soon end.

"When Jayne went out to Spain to work as a nanny, I never thought it would end up like this."

Freedom

"She has had to grow up a lot since it happened. But we know Gary thinks the world of her. He often writes to tell me what a wonderful daughter I have."

Musicians have launched a campaign to raise funds for Gary's legal fees. Stockport band

Rick Raven and the Touch are holding concerts to collect cash.

Rick, in the Guinness Book of Records as The Fastest Guitarist in the World, said: "I went to the same school as Gary and he is a fellow guitarist."

"If it's down to a matter of money to try and win him his freedom then we will do everything we can."

An official at the British Consulate in Malaga said: "We are in touch with Mr Owens but there are no developments in the case."

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■ Together again . . . Gary and fiancée Jayne who campaigned for his release

Picture: JOHN FEATHERSTONE

Freed star's 30 months of hell

EX-ROCK star Gary Owens has been freed from a Spanish jail after a terrifying 30-month ordeal.

Police arrested Gary, 32, of Stockport, in Tenerife in 1991 on suspicion that he was involved in the death of a rich Norwegian club owner on the Costa del Sol.

The brilliant musician, whose band A II Z topped UK heavy metal charts, and who played with many of the super-groups, was released last night from a prison in Jaen north of

EXCLUSIVE

By John Prince

Granada. He has always denied involvement in the death.

He had been held under a false name after a judge ordered that he should be kept in secrecy and isolation because it was feared his life was in danger from Costa crooks. Today, reunited with fiancée Jayne, 25, he told of his fears that hitmen

would seek him out because of his knowledge of the Norwegian's death and of other criminal activities on the sunshine coast.

Jayne, who has taken Gary's surname, campaigned throughout his detention in various Spanish jails, for his freedom. She said: "There hasn't been a lot of real help for us, but the *Manchester Evening News* has been marvellous in their support and I thank you."

■ Full story — Page Five

Freed Gary plans to wed

By John Prince in
Fuengirola, Spain

FORMER rock star Gary Owens, released after 30 months wrongly locked in Spanish jails, was today planning to marry his sweetheart Jayne, the girl who helped free him.

On his first day of freedom the couple strolled in the Spanish resort where they are living in secrecy because of threats to Gary's life.

Gary, 32, from Stockport, a former chart-topping musician said: "We are going to get married as soon as we can. I love Jayne and I can't tell you how much I appreciate the help she has been to me during these awful months.

"I couldn't have gone on without her."

Jayne, 25, took Gary's surname as she battled to get him released from custody.

Struggle

She worked as a barmaid and a nanny to finance her struggle and to pay for her regular trips to see him in prison.

Gary, a former Bramhall High School pupil, ran the UK heavy metal chart topping band A II Z and played with super groups like Def Leppard and Titan.

He was arrested in 1991 on suspicion of being involved in the death of Norwegian club owner Torbjorn Heia, who vanished from his villa near Marbella.

This week a judge finally ordered Gary's release because there was no evidence he was implicated in the murder.

But Gary and Jayne are living in fear.

"I could be in danger because of my knowledge of certain things down here and of the murder," Gary said today.

He added: "It was a long time to be in those dreadful prisons, full of drug dealers and killers, and I'm trying to come to terms with the joy of being with Jayne and walking together and being free."



FREE AT LAST: Gary and his sweetheart Jayne reunited after his release from prison in Spain

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FREEDOM!

Former rock star released from four year detention

EX-ROCK star Gary Owens has started to rebuild his life in Scunthorpe after being wrongfully imprisoned in Spain on a murder charge.

His four-year ordeal ended last month when a court order banning him from leaving the country was lifted following intervention by the Glanford and Scunthorpe MP Elliot Morley.

Gary (33) spent 30 months in high-security Spanish jails after he and his Scunthorpe-born fiancée Jayne (27) were arrested in Tenerife in connection with the death and disappearance of a rich Norwegian club owner on the Costa Del Sol.

Now he and Jayne are making their new home in Scunthorpe, with their own wedding in the town next year on one of the agenda and an invitation to MP Mr Morley to join the guests.

Stockport-born guitarist-writer Gary, whose band A II Z topped the UK heavy metal charts, plans to develop a recording and publishing company in Scunthorpe, aptly called Phoenix, as well as forming a new group of musicians.

In the past he has played with superbands Def Leppard and Titan, toured with AC/DC and Black Sabbath and carried out session work with 10cc and Sad Cafe.

During his Spanish imprisonment musician friends from the Manchester area, including members of Mike and the Mechanics, the Hollies and Herman's Hermits, staged a Rock for Justice concert to help pay his legal fees.

By
NICK COLE

Gary also has plans to open a 'Cyber Cafe' tentatively called The Web, which would offer Internet technology to local business people in Scunthorpe's Mary Street, along with another branch in Manchester.

In that venture he will go into partnership with Jayne's mother, local hairdresser Pat Fordham, and her husband, Labour borough councillor Dick Fordham.

At one time a Spanish judge had ordered that Gary should be held under an assumed name and in isolation in the Jaen prison north of Granada for fear of attempts on his life following the discovery of the body of the 33-year Norwegian Torbjorn Heia down a well in Marbella.

The ex-rock star, who at one time did some recording work at the Norwegian's luxury villa, has always denied involvement in his murder.

"You can't believe what I have been through," he said. "The prisons were hellish. There were savages in there."

During his imprisonment, Jayne, a former pupil of the Brumby Comprehensive School, who has adopted his surname, worked as a nanny and barmaid in Spain to pay for his legal fees and also sought help from Mr Morley.

"I am eternally grateful to all the people in Scunthorpe who have campaigned for my release and Jayne and I are looking forward to rebuilding our lives here," Gary said last night.

Gary is pictured, right, with Pat and Coun Dick Fordham, and fiancée Jayne. Picture by **TONY FOX**





■ A toast to future happiness: Gary with fiancée Jayne and her parents

Rocker's jail nightmare ends with wedding bells

FORMER rock star Gary Owens is to marry the girl who battled tirelessly for more than two years to get him freed from a Spanish jail nightmare.

Gary, who ran the chart-topping A II Z band, based in Stockport, is planning a New Year wedding to girlfriend Jayne.

Jayne, 27, took Gary's surname after settling in Spain where she worked as a nanny and a barmaid while she campaigned for his freedom. He said: "I can never forget the way Jayne stood by me. She never gave up her efforts to get me out of those dreadful prisons."

Gary, a former Bramhall High School pupil, led the band which went

Freed star's 30 months of hell

EXCLUSIVE
By John Pollard

Gary Owens, 30, has been freed from a Spanish prison after a two-year battle. He was arrested in 1991 on suspicion of involvement in the death of a Norwegian club owner. He was held for 30 months until his release through lack of evidence two years ago.

■ Ordeal: From the Evening News

to No. 1 in the UK heavy metal charts and which played alongside super groups like Def Leppard and Titan and toured with AC/DC and Black Sabbath.

Spanish police arrested him in 1991 on suspicion of involvement in the death of a Norwegian club owner. He was held for 30 months until his release through lack of evidence two years ago.

Gary plans comeback

FROM A II Z to Phoenix, Scunthorpe-based guitarist-writer Gary Owens (33) is planning his comeback on the rock and roll road to fame.

Currently celebrating his return to the UK after being wrongfully detained in Spain for years on a murder charge, he is hoping to inject some new life into the Scunthorpe scene. His first move will be to form a new band to be called Phoenix and to get into the recording studios. Gary, one time lead guitarist with A II Z who topped the UK heavy metal charts, has over 80 of his own songs — many of them written during his 30-month imprisonment in Spain.

First the band, then the album and the final stage of his come-back will see the formation of the Phoenix recording and publishing business in Scunthorpe using the latest Internet technology. Gary is definitely a force to be reckoned with, having done session work with the likes of 10cc and Sad Cafe.

He has also toured with AC/DC and Black Sabbath and played with Def Leppard and Titan. During his time in prison musician friends from the Manchester area including members of Mike and the Mechanics, the Hollies and Herman's Hermits, organised a fund-raising concert to help pay for his legal fees.

Gary would like to hear from fellow musicians interested in his plans on Scunthorpe 845914.

mer Congrega
Church on Bri



Grill with Miss I

Stu

SCUNTHORPE

New group plans 'Net' revolution

FOUR Scunthorpe companies have joined together to provide a revolutionary Internet service for North Lincolnshire and users worldwide, saying they expect to create 100 new jobs.

Phoenix Merlin (Holdings) has been set up by the Lynx Group, the Apple Agency,

By
PAUL HART

Merlin Internet, and Phoenix Publishing, all of Skillingdale.

The five shareholders in the holding company are Gary Owens, Simon Burr, Ralph Keeton, Dave Coxon and Richard Fordham.

The new service is due to go on-line in early June.

It will offer local

people what is described as the most advanced Internet service available.

For businesses it is offering training, managed and unmanaged corporate access to the Internet, and an Intranet system which allows members of an individual company in different parts of the UK or the world to communicate privately through a secure network.

The company is also

offering local companies the chance to promote themselves and their products and services through the Internet.

Major deal

The new company sees its strength in being able to offer a complete multi-media package. It can not only provide Internet services but also strategic marketing, design work and advertising services.

Chairman of Merlin Internet is Gary Owens, who said the new company had just sealed a £500,000 deal with OCF Online for a national grid network specifically designed for Internet.

The company plans to open a total of 39 Merlin Virtual Reality Centres, the first of them in Hull.

These will service the needs of businesses in the areas. The general public can also access

the Internet via these centres.

The company has already created five new jobs and says it is expecting to create 100 more in the area. Both people with IT expertise (including web publishing) and sales people will be taken on.

The company is planning to open the first of its Merlin Business Centres on Mary Street in Scunthorpe in early June.

Casting net on £250,000 venture



Mr Fordham (left) and Mr Owens.

TWO Scunthorpe area men are planning to invest around £250,000 to set up an Internet company to serve local businesses and the public.

They are Labour councillor Dick Fordham and Gary Owens, the ex-rock star who was released after being wrongfully imprisoned in Spain on a murder charge.

Their plans include setting up a CyberCafe on Mary Street, where members of the public will be able to go in to surf the Internet and enjoy refreshments. People will pay on a half-hourly basis to gain access to the information superhighway.

The two men are also setting up the Lincolnshire Internet which local companies and individuals will be able to join.

They will be able to sell their products and services as well as access information from

By
PAUL HART

offices and homes by dialling in to the Internet service provider which will be based in Scunthorpe.

The plans include having local amenities from plumbers to take-aways advertised on the Internet.

Mr Owens said that after the setting up of the Lincolnshire Internet a series of CyberCafes to provide public access to the service would be set up. After the Scunthorpe one there would be one in Lincoln and then one in Stockport, followed by central Manchester and London.

He said: "Over a period of 12 months we are expecting to create around 20 jobs in Scunthorpe alone."

He said they were also going to sell and lease computers ready for use on the Internet.

Lincolnshire Internet will be running from January and as this goes

on line the CyberCafé will open for business.

They will offer specialised business training courses in marketing strategies for products and service on the Internet and also training awareness courses for the public.

Lincolnshire Internet will be the first company to take on the American marketing strategies of giving the Internet a specifically regional base alongside the national and international information.

The two men will be liaising with John Leggott College so people who have undergone training there can use on a commercial basis.

Other local business people will also be getting involved, including Daniel Smith who runs ComputerPrint in Br.

Mr Owens will record company will be publishing Lincolnshire and will be offering sale every record ever released in the area. They will also sell record releases.