

ALMR Press Notice

Date: **Tuesday 29 April 2008**

MAY DAY! MAY DAY!

Leading pub and bar trade association the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers has called on the British public to support their embattled local pubs over the forthcoming bank holiday weekend.

A spring bank holiday should be a time when people of all ages can get together and enjoy the full benefits the British pub offers. The pub is just right for watching the exciting end to the football season, for a traditional family meal and for sharing a few holiday drinks with friends. It is usually a very busy time for Britain's pubs and bars. However, they are sending out a distress signal this May Day.

Hit by Alistair Darling's recent tax hikes and cheap supermarket booze, Britain's pubs have been closing in record numbers. At the current rate, six more will go under during the bank holiday weekend alone.

The *ALMR* calls on people across the country to answer this call for help and go out and enjoy a drink or a meal at their local this weekend.

ALMR Chief Executive, Nick Bish, says:

"The May Day bank holiday traditionally sees the British pub come into full bloom. It is the start of the summer season when community pubs are prepared, this year like never before, to be the destination of choice for families and friends to enjoy beer gardens, barbeques and good company.

These occasions as we know them are under threat. We invite the Great British Public to do everything it can to support the Great British Pub, starting this weekend. Your pub needs a May Day rescue mission before it's too late."

Notes for editors

- *ALMR* is the only national trade body solely dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators, and to providing them with business support and advice. It has almost 100 member companies, operating over 15,000 outlets.
- Most *ALMR* members are small, independent companies operating 50 or fewer outlets. For instance, they include the Capital Pub Company and Geronimo Inns - both based in London - plus Lancashire-based Inventive Leisure which was named, earlier this year, as one of the UK's '100 Best Companies to Work For'.
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