

Best newcomer after 270 years!



The Crown at Sandon is hardly a new kid on the block, but the pub has just scooped the Best Newcomer in the Essex Life Food and Drink Awards.

Nestling in the corner of Sandon's beautiful village green, The Crown is perfectly placed to be at the heart of village life. Sadly, until a few months ago, heart was just what the pub lacked. New landlord Andrew Harding says: 'the building was in a sorry state and in need of some TLC.'

Following a rigorous application process, with some 27 prospective tenants, Andrew and his wife Sarah were successful in their bid to run the pub, owned by brewery Charles Wells, and they set to work. Walls came down, beer-stained carpet was ripped out and, 85 litres of paint later, the premises emerged, beautifully restored and ready for business.

Andrew, who until last year had never pulled a pint before, nevertheless had a few ideas of what the ideal pub should be. 'Our aim is to serve the highest quality food, sourced from independent butchers, greengrocers and fishmongers, as close to The Crown as possible.'

The lunchtime menu changes every few weeks to reflect seasonal produce. A warming soup might be on offer – the day we visited, a superb fish chowder was on the menu. The Crown homemade burger is always



popular, as is the calves' liver, crispy pancetta and mash.

Vegetarian dishes may include a mushroom linguine, or a tart, such as blue cheese and red onion. A daily specials board could feature mussels, or a ciabatta with a seasonal filling. In the evenings a full à la carte menu is served.

The Crown is hosting a Burns Supper on Thursday 24th January and various events are planned throughout 2018.

Andrew says it's all credit to his team to have won such a prestigious award: 'Our chefs,

kitchen staff and front of house have all worked so hard since we opened our doors. The support in Sandon has been phenomenal. People have recognised we're offering something special and that the village has come to life again through the pub.'

**Open Tues - Sun: noon to closing.
Bar menu every lunchtime
Tuesday – Saturday, evenings
Wednesday - Saturday. A la
carte menu Thursday, Friday
and Saturday evenings. Sunday
lunch: noon to 4pm.
The Crown, Sandon Green,
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crownsandon.co.uk
Ample parking, no specific
disabled access, but wheelchairs
can access building.**