

# The Art of Electrolysis

**The first salon of its kind to be established in Lavenham, Beauty Gallery – run by innovative mother and daughter team, Mandy Painting and Victoria Strudwick – is leading the way in electrolysis. Velvet finds out more**

**Beauty Gallery launched in 2001. What inspired Mandy to launch her own business?**

The opening of the salon in 2001 came after ten years of Mandy working mobile/ at home. After renting a room at another salon for a while, the opportunity arose to open her own place so she found a small location in Lavenham. Originally, working from home gave Mandy the flexibility to raise her children, who were still at school. It quickly became the family's main financial support after Mandy's husband was made redundant in the 90s. Ten years later, with the children leaving school, Mandy felt the time was right to take the next step and have her own salon. Beauty Gallery was the first beauty salon established in the village.

**Tell us about the treatments you specialise in and why they are so important?**

The salon specialises in electrolysis for permanent hair removal and Dermalogica expert skincare, although we offer a wide variety of general beauty treatments too. For Mandy in particular, electrolysis and skincare go hand in hand as she also uses electrolysis for advanced cosmetic procedures such as skin tag and red vein removal. We are a results driven salon and the focus is helping clients achieve clear, healthy skin or to help them rid themselves of unwanted hair. Mandy is also an NHS Provider for the service. With skincare we are a Dermalogica salon. Both Mandy and Vicki have been trained to Expert status and regularly attend advanced workshops and lectures on skin health and skincare science. This year we celebrate our 25th year working with Dermalogica and are proud to be a member of the exclusive 'Dermalogica Circle'.

**Electrolysis helps rid customers of unwanted hair and skin problems – how rewarding is it to help people feel better about themselves?**

It is exceptionally rewarding. We have seen people blossom and grow in confidence during treatment. Mandy has helped many clients transform from timid and shy to confident and happy over the years.



**You use Dermalogica in many of your treatments. What do you like about the brand?**

We love the education provided from the company. They really care about helping therapists achieve maximum results in the treatment room. We are also proud to say that they are cruelty-free and have been recognised by PETA. They are also free from harsh chemicals, contain no mineral oil or alcohol, and any palm oil used is sustainably sourced.

**We hear you came to the attention of Dragon's Den Theo Paphitis recently. What happened?**

Vicki is the salon's social media guru and had been joining in his weekly #SBS (Small Business Sunday) competition on Twitter. In August 2018 her Tweet to him was chosen as one of his winners. Since then she has been actively engaging and networking with other winners around the country. In February 2019 Vicki and Mandy are heading to Birmingham to join in his annual networking event where they will have the chance to meet the man himself and collect their certificate in person.

**What are your own personal favourite treatments?**

Vicki loves getting hands on with the new ProPower Peel treatment. The science behind it appeals to her academic nature and she loves seeing fast results on problem skin. Mandy loves her signature Power UP facial using Dermalogica products and the BT-Nano machine but her main love is electrolysis. Changing someone's life is so rewarding.

**You've recently moved to bigger premises. What can customers look forward to since your expansion?**

We have the opportunity to bring on more therapists and offer more treatments. We also have space to rent for complementary therapists who offer treatments that work well alongside ours. Further down the line we are looking at creating a teaching room for Mandy to pass on her considerable knowledge and expertise in electrolysis to other therapists.

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Beauty Gallery is at 3 High Street, Lavenham, CO10 9PX. Visit [beautygallerylavenham.co.uk](http://beautygallerylavenham.co.uk) or call 01787 249595.