



BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS

Relaxing and welcoming, the Lavender Barn offers luxurious beauty treatments and an oasis of calm. Stephanie Sparrow reports. Photography: Robin Lyndon

Harsh autumn winds and the looming pressures of Christmas are taking their toll on many of us. Fortunately, help is nearby, at Lavender Barn. A rural beauty boutique which owner Helen Sharp has filled with opportunities to restore wellbeing and self-worth.

From sophisticated skin care regimes, to indulgent spa packages, and morale-boosting manicures, Helen and her long-standing team of professional therapists have compiled a programme of treatments to be enjoyed at Lavender Barn's tranquil setting within Charnock Farm.

The location and design of the salon were chosen to enhance the beauty experience, as Helen explains.

"From the spacious, free, car park, to the calming sounds of the water wheel outside The Mill, the ambience is set from the moment you arrive," she says. "Walking into the salon you are welcomed by a friendly reception team, offered a complimentary drink, and a chance to gather your thoughts before starting your treatment. This experience is about wellness and relaxation, and we want you to enjoy the journey."

Clients are then invited into one of the spacious, tastefully decorated treatment rooms. Featuring heated beds and relaxed lighting, they are beautifully named as The Orchard, Meadow, Woodlands and Hayloft. After treatments, clients retire to The Manicured Garden, where a complimentary cucumber and mint water is served.

Helen, who previously owned Le Visage Spa within Shaw Hill for 18 years, opened Lavender Barn in 2016 and expanded it in 2017 to encompass the four treatment rooms, three manicure stations, pedicure room and a boutique gift shop. The salon brochure (also available online) showcases the breadth of treatments, all of which represent Helen's trust in expert products, and her belief that, "real beauty comes not just from the outside, but from deep within."



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Helen has chosen prestigious skincare partners which reflect the professional knowledge of herself and the team. The treatments and results-driven facials feature, Decleor, whose blend of premium essential oils has a loyal following; Comfort Zone, renowned for its innovative products and treatments (such as the Himalaya Salt Ritual); Caci, known for its non-surgical anti-ageing treatments, and Environ, a

'step up system' skincare, largely based on Vitamin A alongside antioxidants and peptides, therefore can only be used after a full skin consultation.



Other treatments, all of which are listed in the online brochure, include packages for "essential maintenance", such as waxing, treatments for men and enhancements, such as brow work. Monthly Indulgent beauty offers (multi-treatment packages) are another favourite among clients.

Bespoke gift vouchers are a popular way to share the Lavender Barn experience. "We don't buy time for ourselves, Helen says, "but these are welcome during the busy lead up to Christmas. It's wonderful to give me-time to someone."

Clients, and visitors to Charnock Farm's other attractions, are welcome to peruse the Lavender Barn gift boutique. Featuring artisan products, many locally made, it offers a chance to share Helen's ethos that a journey to Lavender Barn puts "vitality, energy and sunshine in your soul." ■

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