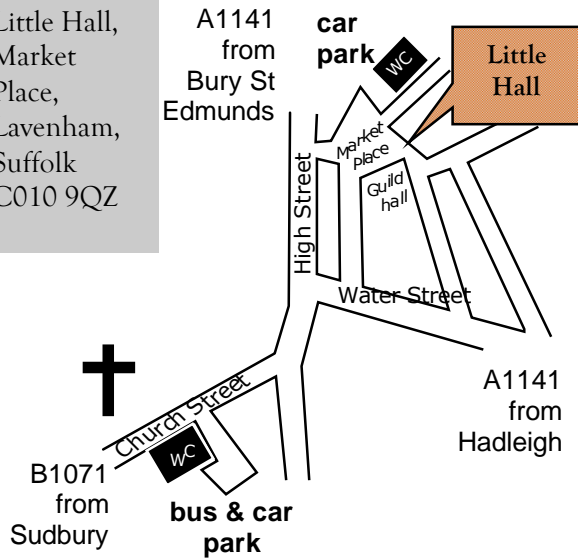


Little Hall,  
Market  
Place,  
Lavenham,  
Suffolk  
CO10 9QZ



The car parks are free. Cars may drop passengers in the Market Place and may find parking space there. Coaches will not be able to negotiate the tight turns and will need to unload in the High Street.

Find us in the centre of Lavenham  
12 miles SE of Bury St Edmunds: A134 - A1141  
23 miles NW of Colchester A12 - B1070 - A1141  
19 miles W of Ipswich A1071-A1141

The SBPT also owns  
**Pakenham Water Mill**

The last working water mill in Suffolk

*Situated in the village of Pakenham (IP31 2NB)*

*7 miles east of Bury St Edmunds*

*Follow the brown signs from A143*

Open from April to end of October

Sat, Sun & BH: 1:30 - 5:00 pm

Thur: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

*(with milling demonstrations until 11am on first Thursday of the month)*

Adults: £3.00, Senior Citizens: £2.50,

Children: £1.50 Tel: 01284 724075

[www.pakenhamwatermill.co.uk](http://www.pakenhamwatermill.co.uk)

## Opening Times for 2010

Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>

Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday  
afternoons 2.00 - 5.30 pm

Bank Holidays 11.00 am to 5.30 pm

Last admission 4.30 pm

We run special events throughout the year

—watch our website [www.littlehall.org.uk](http://www.littlehall.org.uk)

## Prices

adults £3.00, concessions for CPRE and SPS  
members, accompanied children free.

**Groups** adults £2.50, schools £0.50.

Visits for groups of 12 or more can be  
arranged, at least one week in advance, for any  
time of year. Groups larger than 25 should  
split, perhaps combining with a visit to the  
Church or Guildhall.

The house, being old, has uneven floors, changes  
of level, narrow stairs and low beams. Visitors are  
recommended to be vigilant. Those who find the  
stairs impossible may see part of the upstairs on  
our CCTV and have an individual commentary  
from the guide. Wheelchair access is difficult, but  
we have in the past been able to give limited  
access to users of small or folding chairs.

There are many cafés, inns and first-rate  
restaurants in Lavenham. Sandwiches and drinks  
are available in several shops. There is a picnic  
and play area at the bottom of Water Street.

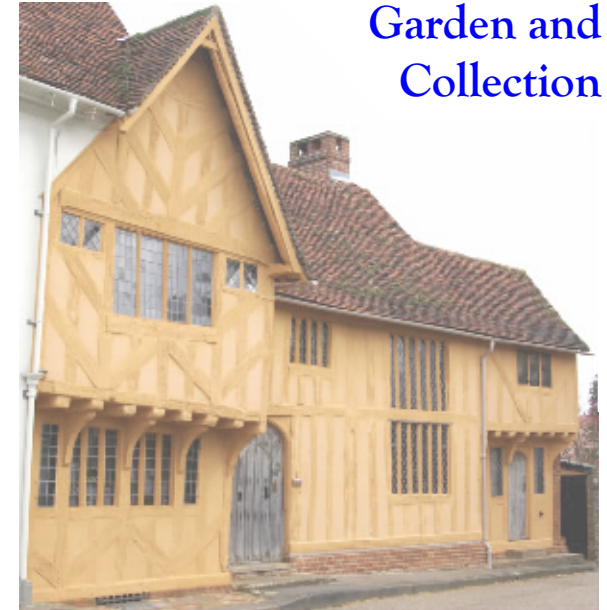
House	01787 247019
Group Booking	01787 247554
SBPT/SPS Office	01787 247179
Fax	01787 248341
Email	<a href="mailto:info@littlehall.org.uk">info@littlehall.org.uk</a>

Little Hall is owned by  
Suffolk Building  
Preservation Trust Limited  
(reg. charity 265212)



# Little Hall, Lavenham

## Wool Merchant's House Garden and Collection



One of the oldest buildings in the best  
preserved of the Suffolk wool towns, this 14<sup>th</sup>  
century house was built for the Causton  
family of clothiers and its subsequent  
development has mirrored the changing  
fortunes of Lavenham.

Little Hall was restored by the Gayer-  
Anderson brothers who filled the house with  
art and artefacts collected during their  
extensive travels. Study the development of  
the Tudor house, explore the collection, relax  
in its tranquil walled garden or, with a guide,  
hear the story of its occupants through the  
centuries. Whatever your interest this much  
loved museum will welcome and intrigue you.



In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when East Anglia was the most highly populated region of England, Lavenham paid the 14<sup>th</sup> highest amount of tax among towns in the land. Its wealth came from a cottage industry producing woollen broadcloth that was sold all

over England, Europe and even North Africa and Asia. In spite of incursions of foreign products and the ravages of the Black Death, Lavenham's economy was based on clothmaking for several centuries. Then, in the late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, cloth weaving, once a cottage industry, transferred to large towns with factories, powered first by water and then by steam.



Although some workers were able to use their traditional skills in weaving horsehair, Lavenham, having lost its major source of

## A Treasure House Museum The Gayer-Anderson collection

income, became a quiet agricultural backwater where little changed for a couple of centuries and many buildings, Little Hall included, were left "unimproved". Lavenham is attractive now because of this absence of change. Impoverished and neglected during the early part of the last century, the village and its houses are now being carefully nurtured and preserved.



Visitors to Little Hall see an ancient building which reflects the history of Lavenham. First built in the 1390s as a family house and workplace for the Causton family, it was enlarged and improved in 1425-50, modernised by the addition of a fireplace and a new upper floor in the Hall in the mid 1500s and given a new rear wing around 1700. Eventually it was divided into six tiny tenements and for nearly two hundred years provided homes for six families.

Little Hall was restored in the 1920s/30s by the Gayer-Anderson twin brothers. Soldiers and talented artists and collectors, they left the house to be a hostel for Art Students under the supervision of their friend, the last private occupant, painter Reginald Brill. The house has since been maintained by the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust as an accredited museum.



The ground floor of the house presents six rooms, mainly Tudor, but containing the furniture and part of the collections of the Gayer Andersons. This gives the house the atmosphere of a home, welcoming and eccentric. The rooms vary from an exotic Persian panelled study to the Dining Room, once the main Hall of the old house, with beams and latticed windows. The two upper rooms include a spectacular chamber with a striking crown-post roof. The garden combines a knot-garden along Tudor lines with a beautiful traditional English garden.

