

# “IT’S A PLEASURE” SAY WESTCOUNTRY LEISURE!

Providing pool designs and supplies across Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, SPATA members Westcountry Leisure Pools Ltd are one of a number of companies that are feeling optimistic about what next year holds

The Newton Abbot based company was launched in 2002 and grew almost immediately at an impressive rate. One of their first high profile projects was a large commercial pool in a country manor house close to Mortenhampstead, Dartmoor and since then they have gone from strength to strength. Over the last ten years, the company have seen a number of changes in technology. Today, they use AutoCad 3D which they have found to be a coherent tool in all commercial projects. Architects down to the Quantity Surveyor and their team of on site installers are working from precision details – something that is absolutely essential for accuracy and speed in today’s fast paced commercial environment.

The business has two partners, both called Mark, that run the company. Mark Gilpin and Mark Sowerby have been in the industry for over 25 years and their knowledge and expertise are extensive.

The company has found over the years, work for them has always been steady and they have built up a very good reputation from client-based recommendations and from those, a large number of maintenance contracts have grown.

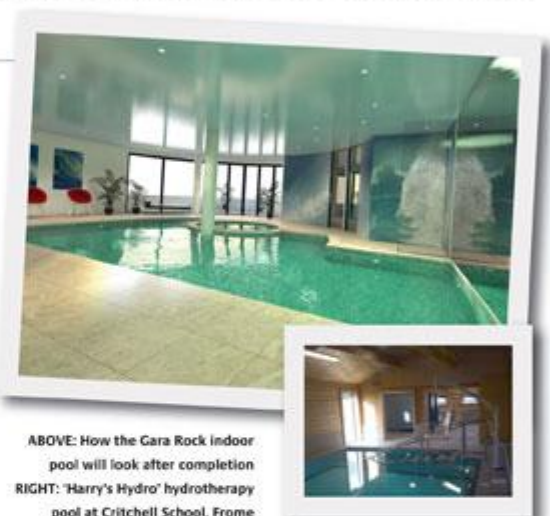
In addition to being SPATA members, their team of engineers are all up to speed with the latest training available through various courses from suppliers and ISPE (Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers) and they have developed a great relationship with clients who

are complimentary, trusting and totally appreciate their devout care and enthusiasm to assist them.

Speaking of their SPATA membership, Mark Gilpin said: “We have been a member of the Swimming Pool Allied Trade Association since we began and have always found that the membership has been a guarantee of our standard of work and encouraged clients to understand that it also provides a safe guard to them.”

More recently Maggie Gilpin has joined the team to deal with all administrative matters. As a first point of contact, she has been an asset to Managing Director Mark Gilpin as he has been able to concentrate on the design and technology side of the business.

2011 was a busy year for the company but at the beginning of November, through no fault of their own, a major project they were working on came abruptly to a halt. The company left the site at Gara Rock having completed the scheduled outdoor pool which was to be abandoned for a long cold winter ahead. The project is set in one of the most stunning positions in the South Hams District of East Portlemouth on the slopes of a landscape in an Area of Outstanding Beauty. An old redundant hotel which was completely flattened to become a boutique hotel with eight attached holiday cottages all having the facility of the outdoor pool. However, in late summer this year the project recommenced and the company were delighted



**ABOVE: How the Gara Rock indoor pool will look after completion**  
**RIGHT: ‘Harry’s Hydro’ hydrotherapy pool at Critchell School, Frome**

to return and start the second phase of the project – an indoor pool and wellness suite – which is currently ongoing.

“When completed, it will give us great pleasure to have been a part of the new development as running along the front of it is the South West Coast Path, so it will be a showcase to all passers by,” said Maggie Gilpin.

Another project they have recently completed is a hydrotherapy pool for a school in Frome, Somerset. The build was funded through a charity group managed by Trustees raising money for the pool, which has now become known as Harry’s Hydro, set in Critchell School.

“It was a pleasure to be part of this project, which is going to have huge benefits not only to the school but for use of the whole community as well,” said Maggie Gilpin.

By the end of the year, the company will be working on four projects, one current and three to commence, meaning a busy start to 2013. It’s just one example though of how things seem to be picking up and are looking more promising.

“It has been suggested that the country is coming out of recession and for us down in the South West of England which we believe had been hit quite badly, there are changes in development on the horizon with many new commercial projects coming to light. We will embrace every opportunity and it is again our pleasure to be involved with as many new projects in the future,” added Maggie. **spn**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**  
**WESTCOUNTRY LEISURE POOLS LTD**  
01626 240733  
www.westcountryleisurepools.co.uk