



Oops! We'll be a little late with this issue! Many thanks for the super beginning to 2007. We had a very busy start but you should all have received your jigsaws from our first issue of the year. Sorry you had to wait for some items, but they have now all been despatched. Lots of exciting new jigsaws are being added to our existing ranges and we're looking forward to receiving the new catalogues very soon.

THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB

Gibsons supporting The Variety Club Children's Charity

An exceptionally talented group of artists are behind the popularity of Gibsons puzzles, with themes varying from humour to romantic nostalgia. In 2007 an incredible fifty new puzzles are being added to the range, which contains a real mix of artwork - from old favourites such as Thomas Kinkade and Mike Jupp, to many artists who are being shown for the first time.

Gibsons are particularly proud to introduce the 'Sunshine Coach', a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle in support of The Variety Club Children's Charity. £1 from every puzzle sold will be donated by Gibsons to the charity.

The roots of the Variety Club of Great Britain go back to 1927 when, in Pittsburgh, a group of 11 men involved in show business set up a social club. They rented a small room in the William Penn Hotel for their new club, which they named the Variety Club, as all its members were drawn from various branches of the show business world.

On Christmas Eve 1928 a one-month-old baby was abandoned in the Sheridan Square Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with a note pinned to her dress, which read:

"Please take care of my baby. Her name is Catherine. I can no longer take care of her. I have eight others. My husband is out of work. She was born on Thanksgiving Day. I have always heard of the goodness of show business people and pray to God that you will look after her. Signed, a heartbroken mother."

When all efforts by the police and local newspapers failed to locate the parents, the 11 club members decided to underwrite the infant's support and education.

The child was named Catherine Variety Sheridan. The 11 'godfathers' were proud that a distraught mother had entrusted her child to show people. The subsequent publicity surrounding Catherine and her benefactors attracted many other show business people anxious to help. Before long Catherine had more clothes and toys than any child could possibly need.

As a result, by the time Catherine was adopted at the age of five, the club that she had effectively started was well on the way to becoming a recognised children's charity.

It was not long before the Variety Club decided to raise funds for even more disadvantaged children. The club's first fundraising event was held under a circus big top, which is why the circus vernacular is used within the club structure worldwide.









The Variety Club of Great Britain was formed at an inaugural dinner at the Savoy in October 1949. Its aim to help sick, disabled

and disadvantaged children throughout the U.K. Whether the charity is raising money to build a paediatric unit, donating a Sunshine Coach to a special school, or taking a group of children a fun packed "Variety at Work" day out, it aims to make a real difference, hopefully putting smiles on faces along the way. A donation of just £20 will allow one under-privileged child to have a day out, while £150 provides an adapted swing frame for a disabled child to join in outdoor play. During the last 45 years the charity has provided 4,400 Sunshine Coaches, giving disabled and disadvantaged children the gift of freedom and mobility.

Gibsons hopes to help many sick, disabled and disadvantaged children across the UK experience days out in Sunshine Coaches.

'As far as we are aware this is the first opportunity people have had to support a charity when buying a jigsaw puzzle,' commented Michael Gibson. 'From some research we have carried out, we know that our puzzlers are keen to support British children's charities. We hope that this wonderful image will help us raise a lot of money for this fantastic organisation.' **And we too will donate £1.00 for each puzzle sold.**

READ ABOUT

-  **Helping raise funds for the Variety Club.**
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NEWS & VIEWS

Best of the Bunch!

I don't get out very much due to being quite disabled. During a recent visit, my niece decided that a walk and fresh air would do me the world of good. So having placed me in my wheelchair, we set off along the road towards the woods where there is a path that twists and turns through the trees. It was quite hard going both for me having to ride the bumps and her having to steer the wheelchair, but it was so nice to see the walkers and the children enjoying the late autumn sunshine. It reminded me of a puzzle I had completed several years ago which had children picnicking in an opening in a wood and adults walking their dogs, mostly running free. There was a large tree trunk which the children were sitting and climbing on, but I can't remember the title. Not surprising when I think about the number of puzzles I complete in the course of a month. If anyone can recall this picture and would be willing to part with it- for a small fee, I would love to have the chance to do it again.

Mrs. M Grey - Thetford.

We can't think of a puzzle that we could send you that would be similar to this, but with a wealth of new puzzle brochures coming, we're sure that you'll find a nice scene to work on. Do let us know what you would like as your prize for best of the bunch.

Thank you! Thank you! For your very quick response to my request to join "The Official UK Puzzle club". I joined via the internet on Wednesday night and lo and behold, my membership pack arrived in the post today (Friday). I am delighted to have so many puzzle books to browse through and can't wait for my first ones to arrive.

Janet Kimber - Lytham St Annes.

Thank you for your comments! We're really pleased that you decided to join and aim to deliver all orders within seven days, however there are times when we cannot respond that quickly, so do bear with us.

A friend's mother was in hospital for quite a long stay, so she bought her a puzzle tray and a 500 piece jigsaw. A visit by a senior doctor with students found her mother at the puzzle. A day or two later one of the students returned saying that he had come to see how she was getting on. It was not her health he was enquiring after, but the progress of the puzzle. A real bedside manner would you say? Or was he just a jigsaw specialist in the making.

Anonymous.

I've just completed my first 'Wasgij' and really enjoyed the challenge. In future, I shall complete all my puzzles without looking at the picture! You informed me that there is only one or two released each year, so can you let me know when the next one is due. I really like the comic images.

Wasgij Destiny 7 & Mystery three have just been released and as far as I am aware the next one is a special '10th anniversary' Wasgij called 'The Secret is out' which should be available spring 2007. We've already got quite an order book for this, so if you want to purchase this through the club, do let us know and we'll reserve it for you. For the many 'Wasgij' collectors, No's 1-2-3 & 4 have now been withdrawn.

WINNING WAYS

Two winners this month: Our puzzle prize for Issue 15 – What do you do with your old puzzles has to go to Gordon Smith, who completes frames and donates his puzzles to the local Old peoples homes in his area

And our Winning Ways question for Issue 16.

We hear lot's of stories about how many puzzles you have –

JIG'S CORNER QUESTIONS & INFORMATION & MORE

Here I am! You won't believe the number of new manufacturers madam's got me working on. Coming soon- Heye-Crown & Andrews-Sunsout-Trefl-just to name a few. Just sorting through and waiting for the lines we've selected and the new catalogues to come through.

So we'll have lots more choice for you.

Just in case you haven't been informed yet, Gibson's have just let us know that the COUNTRY LIFE jigsaw advertised in our Issue 16 has the wrong jigsaw in the box. So if you haven't started it –please put it to one side. We've let them know who's bought this one and they are going to send you the correct puzzle and a picture for the one in the box. So some lucky folk will have two! For the price of one.

Q: Why do you not advertise Falcon's puzzles on your brochures?

A: We are not associated with Falcon in any way, however all their products are available through the club. Watch out for the RED Nellie... they have just changed their 25year old name to Jumbo. Same products- same company.

Q: Educa's brochure shows lot's of images, but they look very dull. Are the puzzles as good a quality as the rest of the ranges you sell?

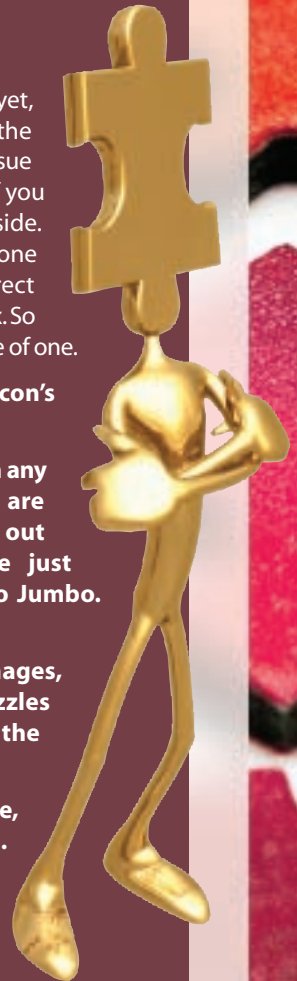
A: The Brochure isn't as good as some, but we can vouch for the Jigsaws. Our remit is to ensure that all the Jigsaws we sell are of exceptional quality.

As you know Madam is off on her travels and guess what! She's travelling British Airways and her four day trip could stretch into a slightly longer period. Good news for me. I might have to put together Issue 18! But she doesn't trust me with the orders, so no despatches between 8th February & 13th February (could be 16th before she gets back).

Very happy, challenging puzzling, Jig.

You must have been really busy over Christmas because we had very few entries to this one but our winner is Mrs C M Wilkner who has over 300 with 30 still to do. Please let us know which puzzles you would like as your prizes. If you wish to wait, then the new brochures will be out soon.

Winning Ways Question for Issue 17: We too are going to donate £1.00 for each 'Sunshine Coach' Jigsaw. Can you guess how many our members will purchase?



MEET THE ARTIST

The Sunshine Coach was painted by Lawrie Taylor. It is the first time Gibsons have worked with Lawrie and they are delighted with the result, 'Lawrie has really captured the essence of the Variety Club and the difference the Sunshine Coaches make to children's lives', commented Michael Gibson. 'At the same time, his artwork makes a wonderfully detailed puzzle.'

Born in Darlington, Co. Durham he attended Gladstone Street Boys School. Where most of his fellow pupils would leave to take up apprenticeships in engineering and allied trades. But encouraged by his mother and father, Lawrie went on to Art College at the age of 15, and took an NDD course in art and design.

In 1963, there was little or no work for a young artist/designer in Darlington, so soon after his 19th birthday, Lawrie left home and moved into a bed sit in London's Notting Hill. He got a job working at a commercial art studio in Covent Garden where he stayed for six years before branching out as a freelance artist. He lives in Surrey, with his wife and two cats.

Ravensburger

PREVIEWS

ALL AVAILABLE NOW



- 1 15658-Scenic North
- 2 15365-Scenic London
- 3 15364-Scenic Ireland
- 4 15524-Mirror Image- Campsite Chaos
- 5 15507 - Look and Find-White Tigers
- 6 15773 -Look & Find-Dolphins
- 7 15300- Lifting the Crop
- 8 15308-Happy Days Lynmouth
- 9 15293-Happy Days Oxford

OFFICIAL PUZZLE CLUB SELECTED JIGSAWS

Third in the series of Kevin Walsh's 'Happy Days'-Happy Days Whitby- a 1000pc Jigsaw from Ravensburger. Available at £8.99.

15333 Happy Days – Whitby



To add to your 'Happy Days' series Happy Days London-1000pc Jigsaw from Ravensburger @ £8.99.

Cats in the Toy shop by Linda Jane Smith commissioned by Ravensburger and available at £9.99.



15651 Happy Days – London

15730 Cats in the Toy Shop



To order Newquay and /or Passing Through and /or Perfect Housewives or any of the other products featured complete the Order form below and send with your remittance payable to: **The Official UK Puzzle Club, PO Box 3351, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 2WE.** If you prefer not to cut up your newsletter, simply put your request in writing or telephone our order line.

Please send me:

	Price	Quantity	Value
Happy Days Whitby	£8.99		
Happy Days London	£8.99		
Cats in the Toy Shop	£9.99		
Sunshine Coach	£10.99		
Scenic North	£8.99		
Scenic London	£8.99		
Scenic Ireland	£8.99		
Mirror Image-Campsite Chaos	£8.99		
Look & Find-White Tigers	£9.99		
Look & Find-Dolphins	£9.99		
Lifting the Crop	£8.99		
Happy Days Oxford	£8.99		
Happy Days- Lynmouth	£8.99		
Frame your Sunshine Coach	£39.99		
2000pc Puzzeroll with free puzzle	£24.99		Sent direct
Postage and Packing			£3.50
Gold members deduct 10% from above prices		Total Value:	

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Membership No. _____

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £ _____ made payable to THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB.

Please debit £ _____ from my: MASTERCARD SWITCH VISA

CARD NO * _____

ISSUE NO _____

SECURITY CODE (last 3 numbers on reverse of card) _____

EXPIRY DATE _____

VALID FROM _____

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery

* Please attach cardholder's details if different from above

Contact us:

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 Email: mb@jigsaw-puzzle-club.co.uk or sales@whispers.co.uk · Web Address: www.jigsaw-puzzle-club.co.uk

For all international sales we recommend Jigsaw Gallery Tel: 020 8661 7597 · Web address: www.jigsawgallery.com

Another Great website with lot's of manufacturers we don't yet deal with available through the club or direct
 www.jigsawpuzzlesdirect.co.uk

Helpline, retailers in your area, and general membership enquiries. Tel: 0118 978 9599