



Our last Newsletter for 2007! We would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for your tremendous support during our second year and wish you all a very happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB

Clive Nichols



Clive Nichols is one of the world's most successful flower and garden photographers. He has won many awards for his work and in 2005 was voted 'Garden Photographer of the Year' by the Garden Writers Guild. We have featured a few of his sensational works and look forward to two exceptional images due for release next year. He has been kind enough

to write an article for us which gives us a background to this very talented photographer

I first started taking pictures of gardens and flowers nearly 20 years ago. I was a chef in an Italian Restaurant when I suddenly realised there was more to life than cooking for 200 people! So I came home one evening and told my girlfriend (now my wife, Jane) that I wanted to become a photographer. The next day, I handed in my notice to the restaurant and bought my first camera. With no previous understanding of photography, I quickly realised that I could only take pictures outside, having no experience of or equipment for, indoor lighting. Soon I was out in the field, shooting landscape and travel images for magazines, books and brochures. It was after a visit to my local WH Smiths that I realised that the quality of garden and flower imagery was very poor. I saw a niche and went for it. Three years later I was writing and photographing my first book for the Royal Horticultural Society - 'Photographing Plants & Gardens' - which has gone on to sell 25,000 copies all over the world. As a result of the book, my standing within garden photography rose rapidly, bringing me into contact with greetings card manufacturers, calendar companies and of course, the Jigsaw manufacturers Crown & Andrews.

The biggest thrill for me as a professional photographer, apart from the obvious one of seeing my work in print on a regular basis, is to be in a beautiful garden, alone, often as the sun rises or sets. At these times, the light and atmosphere of a garden can be very special - the first rays of the sun backlighting a flower dripping with dewdrops or strung with cobwebs lifts the spirits and makes me feel glad to be alive. Dawn is best, the only drawback being that I have to be in a garden as early as 4.50am in the summer.

My early plant portraits were hard and graphic. Over time they have become softer and more sympathetic to their

subjects. Perhaps I understand better now what it is like to be an English aquilegia on a damp, dewy morning in July, or an ancient, snow dusted tree in the harsh wins of St Petersburg. Certainly I understand the elements that govern my subjects' lives better. Sun, rain, mist, fog and frost, snow and wind, I know, can all be traitors: what you see of them with the naked eye is not always what the camera will reflect. But, now, I also know how to compensate and manipulate so that the people who look at my photographs will share my emotions and perceptions - the romance of roses at dusk, the ethereal light of the sun rising over a lake, the three-dimensional solidity of pyramids of yew.



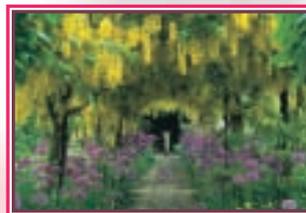
Autumn at High Beeches



Winter at Barnsley House



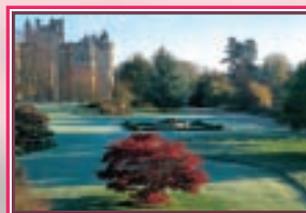
Autumn Foilage at Westonbirt



Laburnham Arch at Barnsley House



Winter Frost at Stourbridge



Acer in Autumn

READ ABOUT

-  **Clive Nichols and his amazing Garden photography**
-  **News & Views**
-  **Previews & Coming soon**
-  **Readers Letters**
-  **Official Puzzle Club selected Jigsaws**
-  **Jigs corner-Keeping you informed**
-  **Winning Ways**

NEWS & VIEWS

(Just a reminder that the first letter published in this section qualifies the writer to a free 1000pc jigsaw of their choice- Just let us know which you would like).

What a surprise I had in the mail. I received a gift card to say that fourteen bags of seeds had been provided for poor farming communities abroad. These had been donated by friends as a "Thank you" for borrowing my jigsaws. We have now decided to keep a charity box and everytime they borrow a jigsaw from my extensive collection, they will pop two pounds into the box, to be used to send gifts for Christmas 2008. I am very pleased that my enjoyable hobby will be of benefit to others.

Margaret Green - Tredegar.

What a brilliant idea! And a great benefit too. Thank you so much for sharing this. I hope it may give ideas to others who have equal 'jigsaw libraries' such as yours and spread a little joy across the poorest communities.

I was very interested to read in a previous edition an article on the whole process of making a jigsaw puzzle. You described in superb detail every stage of the process from receiving the original photograph or piece of artwork to how it eventually gets cut into pieces to make the finished jigsaw. I only wish that it could be possible for me and all other jigsaw puzzle fanatics to visit a factory to see it being done

Tim Reypert - Penarth.

There are just a few remaining manufacturers in the UK. Unfortunately production is now more buoyant abroad. However, I believe that Wentworth have an open day during the year and will find out when and let everyone know.

Brochures pre-year 2000 had many attractive period offers. Unfortunately, my old brochures were destroyed leaving only my most treasured scenes on the walls to remind me they are much admired and I've been asked to request if the Ravensburger & Gibsons brochures of those periods are still available?

Mr Jordan - Newcastle Emlyn.

We often get requests for old period jigsaws and brochures. All I can suggest is that you keep a keen eye on the Charity shops and libraries. There are many reissues, but you can never tell when these will come onto the market again. If we can get hold of any past brochures, we will send them on but unlikely. Best wait and see what the jigsaw world have to offer in the coming year. Perhaps your fellow members may have some that they want to dispose of????

Thank you for the tremendous response to Ravensburger questionnaire! The draw has taken place and the winner, who will be receiving 10 best selling Jigsaws from Ravensburger is Mrs C S Lorber-Farnborough. We hope to produce an article on the results of the survey very soon.

JIG'S CORNER QUESTIONS & INFORMATION & MORE

It's me again! Well what do you think? Are we fulfilling our promises? By the many phone calls and offers of support, I guess the answer has to be yes. Margaret would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who wrote and phoned during November and for the great comments and praise. We'll continue to strive to get you the best deals and offers.

Don't forget, if you want to send someone a jigsaw or membership as a Christmas gift, just let us know and we'll send a little card with your greeting. Despatch is usually within two days.

We'll be closing for Christmas on the 23rd December, but no doubt Madam will be back in to take any phone calls on 26th. Last orders for Christmas delivery need to be received by 19th December to guarantee Christmas delivery...

If you missed out on our huge selection of Christmas Jigsaws, we still have them available.

Have a great 'puzzling' Christmas. Can't wait to show you all the fantastic new jigsaws for 2008!

Any questions?? I'm here to help.

Happy Puzzling

Jig



WINNING WAYS

Well, our competition certainly kept you busy! The winner is Annette Olney-Hazlemere who found 194 words. Your Puzzlekaddy is on its way. Congratulations!

AND OUR WINNING WAYS COMPETITION FOR ISSUE 27!

What was Santa's surprise in Gibsons 2007 Limited Edition Christmas Puzzle?

Our winner will receive a 1000pc Puzzlekaddy.

PREVIEWS

We have just received the new Ken Duncan range from Crown & Andrews beautiful photographic range. These four jigsaws are 748 pieces and measure 83 x 31 cm.



CA01710 - The Elgar, Grindlwald



CA01711 - Phone Box, Kirkstile



CA01712 - Crummock Water, Lake District



CA17095 - Neuschwanstin Castle

And a stunning new 1000pc range from Steve Bloom, who specializes in photographing evocative images of the natural world. South African born, his initial photography documented life there during the seventies. We've enclosed a brochure but please note that 'Bald Eagles & Elephants & Doves' will not be available until mid 2008.

- 1 CA01727 Emperor Penguins
- 2 CA01728 Panda Mother & Twin Cubs
- 3 CA01730 Siberian Tigers
- 4 CA01732 Elephants with Storm Clouds



OFFICIAL PUZZLE CLUB SELECTED JIGSAWS

Lamplight Bridge & Mountain Chapel. Two stunning 1000pc Thomas Kinkadee jigsaws in one box produced by Gibsons and available at £17.99.

G960-Lamplight Bridge & Mountain Chapel 2 x 1000pc



Best Seller - Night before Christmas - 1000pc Thomas Kinkadee from 2007 Gibson Collection available at £11.99.

Winter has arrived but will the Garden rest? A year in the Garden-4 x 500pc Jigsaws. A great Christmas gift at £15.99.

G909-A Year in the Garden-4 x 500pc

G420- Night before Christmas-1000pc



To order **Lamplight Bridge & Mountain Chapel** and/or **Night before Christmas** and/or **A Year in the Garden** or any of the other products featured in this issue 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 don't want to spoil your newsletter, simply put your request on paper).

Please send me:

	Price	Quantity	Value
G960 Lamplight Bridge & Mountain Chapel 2 x 1000pc	£17.99		
G420 Night before Christmas 1000pc	£11.99		
G909 Year in Garden 4 x 500pc	£15.99		
Autumn-High Beeches-1000pc	£10.99		
Winter-Barnsey House-1000pc	£10.99		
Autumn Foilage- Westonbirt-1000pc	£10.99		
Larburnham Arch-1000pc	£10.99		
Winter Frost-Stourbridge 1000pc	£10.99		
Acer in Autumn-1000pc	£10.99		
CA01710-The Elgar-748pc	£10.99		
CA01711-Phone Box-748pc	£10.99		
CA01712-Crummock Water-748pc	£10.99		
CA17095-Neuschwanstein-748pc	£10.99		
Ca01727-Emperor Penguins-1000pc	£11.99		
CA01728-Panda & Cubs-1000pc	£11.99		
CA01730-Siberian Tigers-1000pc	£11.99		
CA01732-Elephants & Storm Clouds	£11.99		
Ref:			
Ref:			
Ref:			
Postage and Packing		£3.50	
Gold Members- Please deduct 10% from above prices excluding specials & p&p			
		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 my credit/debit card for £ _____ from my: MASTERCARD VISA MAESTRO/SOLO

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:

Official UK Puzzle Club, PO Box 3351, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2WE · Telephone: 0118 978 9599 · Fax: 0118 979 5077

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

Other great Websites. Jigsaw Gallery have a wider variety of manufacturers to choose from but do try us first.

Tel: 020 8661 7597 · Web address: www.jigsawgallery.com

Another Great website with lots of manufacturers we don't yet deal with available through the club or direct

www.jigsawpuzzlesdirect.co.uk

General Sales, helpline, retailers in your area, and general membership enquiries. Tel: 0118 978 9599