



Can it really be Spring? Torrential rains, high winds and even snow! Well at least we can indulge in our favourite hobby in the warmth of our homes whilst the weather sorts its self out. Welcome to issue no.31 - April 2008.

THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB

James Hamilton Grovely working with John Francis

John Francis has worked in the natural history world for nearly 40 years illustrating books for all ages. He has an internationally confirmed reputation in this sphere. As well as book illustrations, John has secured commissions in advertising packaging, porcelain products and greeting cards.

His work has taken him to all corners of the planet, from the frozen wastes and pack ice of the Arctic to the searing heat of the American Deserts and the Coral Seas of the Indian Ocean. These scenes are reflected in the beautiful pictures that he paints, bringing to life the flora and fauna that live in these varied environments. John is also particularly interested in animal behaviour.

He works in various mediums including watercolours, gouache and acrylics, very often within the same picture. Paintings may take many forms, with some complicated series taking many months to complete.

His art appears



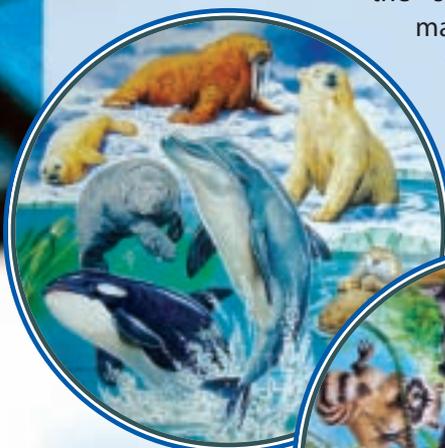
Man's Best Friend - 1000pc



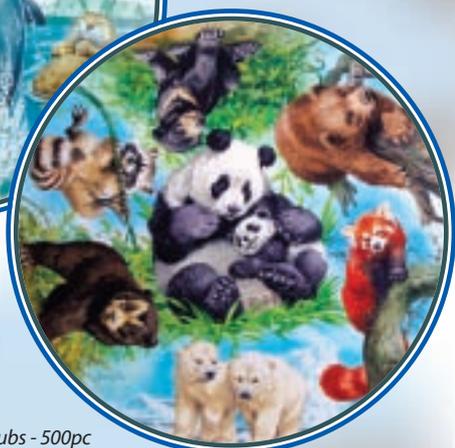
Rainforest Parrots - 1000pc

extensively in The James Hamilton Grovely collection due to its bright, colourful and fine details, which is so appealing to puzzle fans. He has undertaken a number of commissions specifically for James Hamilton Grovely including British Native Ponies, Man's Best Friend, Butterflies of Europe and European Birds. When he undertakes a commission, he first produces a rough sketch of the subject that has been discussed. Once the basic outline is agreed John will complete the painting and it will be reviewed. If needed, John will make final adjustments and the painting is then ready to go forward to be reproduced in a format that can be used for puzzle production.

The most ambitious undertaking by this great artist is The Mystery Collection, a set of eight 1000 piece puzzles showing hundreds of animals and birds from the tropical and temperate regions of the world. Although each puzzle has been manufactured to stand alone, the collection can be 'butted' together to form a unique representation of the natural world. He is also the artist responsible for Rainforest Parrots, Water World, Desert Danger, Mountain View, Grasslands and Coral Sea. In total there are 31 puzzles all painted by John, 10 of which are bestsellers for James Hamilton Grovely.



Marine Mammals - 500pc



Bear Cubs - 500pc

READ ABOUT

-  John Francis
-  News & Views
-  Previews & Coming soon
-  Reader's letters
-  Official Puzzle 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.

One day last week, I had my day all planned. Put a casserole on for dinner, vacuum and dust the upstairs and mow the front and back lawns. At 9.30am the doorbell rang and a large parcel arrived containing my 4 Robert Opie puzzles. When I saw them I was entranced and went down memory lane accompanied by a pot of coffee and a tin of shortbread. Need I say the casserole didn't get made, the upstairs remained dusty and the lawns are still waiting while I happily 'jig' away. Many thanks for bringing back so many happy memories.

Corinne Hunt - Southampton.

I think Gibson's deserves a big thank you from us all for introducing this great range. It certainly proved very popular and I believe gave lots of pleasure to many, judging by the comments we received. We don't blame you for taking time out to 'jig' away. Memory lane is so much more fulfilling than domestic chores!

I am writing to seek your help with a problem which may be of interest and helpful to other members.

I have become aware of this problem as I help on a voluntary basis at a local nursing home for the elderly. As people get older they often lose mobility with their fingers but do not lose their love of jigsaw puzzles. This also applies to people with sight problems. Most of the interesting puzzles have small pieces which an older person cannot handle or indeed see very well. The subject matter of most large piece jigsaws are really only suitable for children. Are you aware of puzzles developed for adults with handling difficulties and where they can be obtained?

Patricia Annesley - Wanstead.

Gibsons have created nine excellent 500pc extra large piece jigsaws which fit the bill perfectly. They have a further four in a new series of 250 pc jigsaws. The pieces are not quite as large, but certainly larger than a normal jigsaw. We stock the complete range so do have a look at the latest Gibson brochure.

I would like to express my delight in finding puzzles of 636 pieces. I am sure other people like myself, who have problems with their hands are as grateful as I am to find these puzzles – plus the 500 extra large piece puzzles. Despite being for people with sight problems etc. people with arthritis find them easy to use. Please add more to these puzzles.

Mrs E Tonks - Rochdale.

Good for mind body and soul! NHS quote about jigsaws from many years ago. There will certainly be more titles in the future.

JIG'S CORNER QUESTIONS & INFORMATION & MORE

Q. Loved the new brochures, but disappointed that no-one has produced a montage of our beautiful Welsh countryside? Any chance?

A. Did pose the question to our manufacturers. Yes they think it's a great idea...so hope to see something in the not too distant future.

Q. Good to receive the new brochures. Are all the puzzles available from the club or have I to try and locate them in the shops? Also how do I find out the prices?

A. No need to go shopping. Everything in the brochures is available from us. Everyone receives an order form /price list when they join and when they order. Each size, type, is listed and prices apply across that particular range. ie: Ravensburger 1000pc = £8.99 - Special selection = £9.99. Gibson 500pc = £7.99 etc. Hope this helps.

Thanks Margaret for organising a surprise membership for Sandra. She has written in telling us what a wonderful person you are! And how delighted she is with being able to choose puzzles from our extensive range. (She wrote to Margaret, but I managed to filch the letter for my corner!)

Don't forget me now that British Summer time has started. Even if you're not 'jigging' it's good to have your news, questions & tips.

Jig



WINNING WAYS

Well done Mrs J Ariffin who identified all 18 articles in our shopping basket

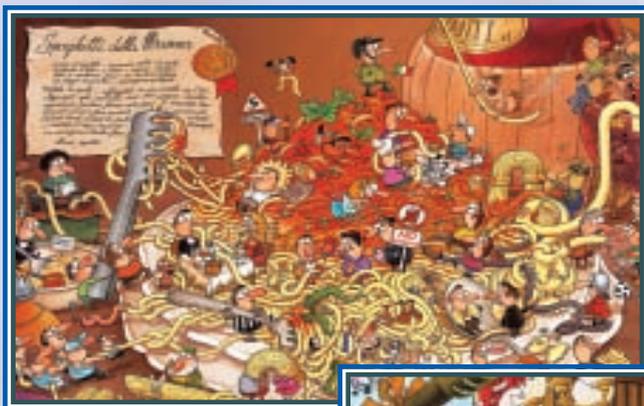
AND OUR WINNING WAYS COMPETITION FOR ISSUE 31 - Entries by 30th April please.

Name just three breeds from James Hamilton Groveley's 'Mans Best Friend'

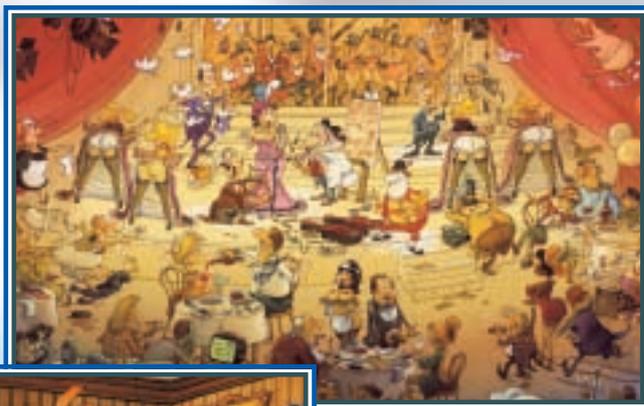
Winners for issue 31 will be announced in our May Newsletter.

PREVIEWS

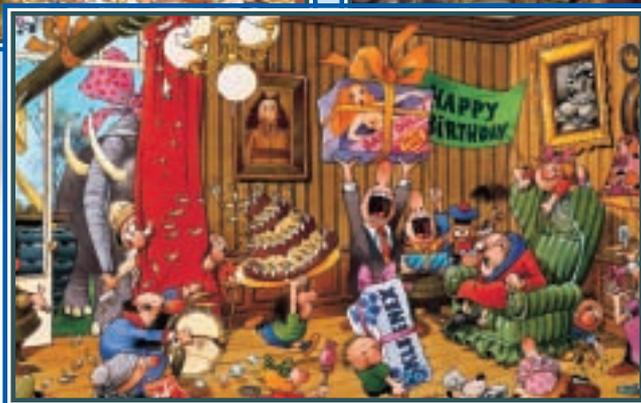
New introduction from Heye. Cartoon Classics



PL9221 - Spaghetti-1000pc

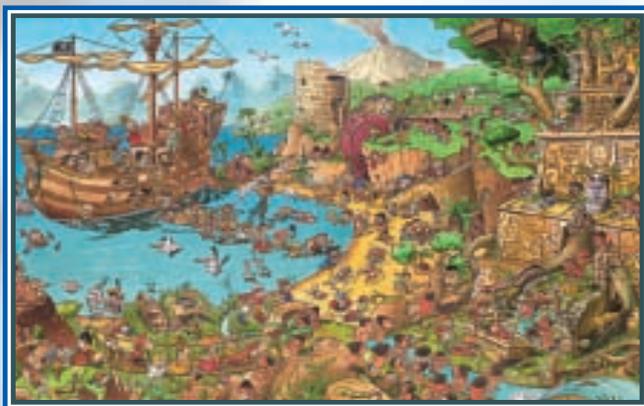


PL9211 - Variete Paris-1000pc

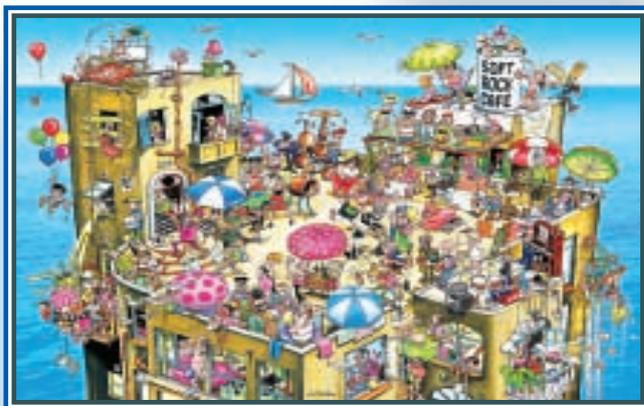


PL9218 - Happy Birthday-1000pc

And in Heyes original Triangular boxes

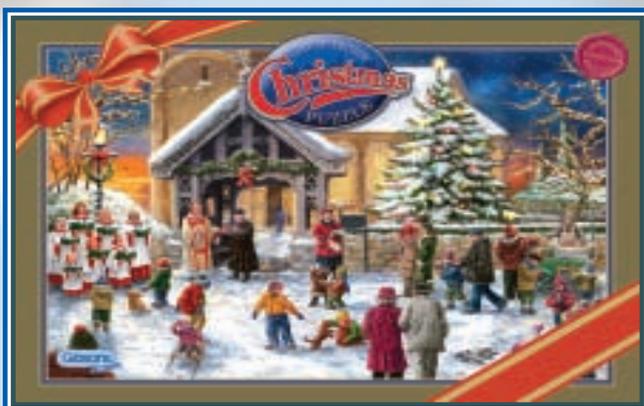


PL9235 - Adventure-1500pc



PL9189 - Soft Rock-1500pc

Reserve your 2008 Christmas Limited editions – available August



G2008 - All Creatures Great and Small



R2008 - Ravensburger Christmas (Colour image will be in next newsletter)

OFFICIAL PUZZLE CLUB SELECTED JIGSAWS

A great depiction of British Native Ponies by our featured artist John Francis-1000pc Jigsaw available at £12.99.

British Native Ponies



Woodland Creatures by artist John Francis from Gibsons 2008 range. 1000pc Jigsaw available at £10.99.

A Touch of summer at The Horse Show created by Kevin Walsh and part of Gibsons 2008 range. 1000pcs available at £10.99.

Woodland Creatures

The Horse Show



To order **British Native Ponies** and/or **Woodland Creatures** and/or **The Horse Show** 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: (Please use blank spaces for unlisted items)

	Price	Quantity	Value
HG1058-British Native Ponies-1000	£12.99		
G463- Woodland Creatures-1000pc	£10.99		
G458-The Horse Show-1000pc	£10.99		
HG1057-Mans Best Friend-1000pc	£12.99		
HG1020-Rainforest Parrots-1000pc	£12.99		
HG5011-Marine Mammals-500pc (Circular)	£7.78		
HG5000-Bear Cubs-500pc (Circular)	£7.78		
Heye 1000pc (Please specify)	£9.99		
Heye 1500pc (Please specify)	£14.99		
G2008-Gibson Christmas	reserve		
R2008-Ravensburger Christmas	reserve		
Ref:			
Ref:			
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 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

Barneys Newsbox holds one of the largest puzzle selections available and caters for ALL sizes. Tel: 01539 435627

**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