



I can't believe it has been a year since we first launched The Official Puzzle Club. We are about to send out renewals to all our bronze members, and hope we can welcome you back for Year two. We've had tremendous support from ALL our members, so a big thank you and we hope that Year two will bring as much pleasure and enjoyment as you've brought us.

THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB

Kevin Walsh - Fine Art Painter

During recent visits to Fairs, in pursuit of quality Jigsaw Manufacturers and images for the Club, I met one of the finest, nicest Artist's I have ever come across His name is Kevin Walsh... Grateful thanks to Kevin, who although an extremely busy man and after a little persuasion, has in fact written the rest of this article himself, giving us a unique insight into the person responsible for many hours of 'puzzling' pleasure...

I was born and raised in the Yorkshire town of Castleford. My aspirations were to be a footballer and I nearly made it when I played for Sheffield Wednesday, even reaching the reserve team!

However, it was my passion for painting that developed into a more rewarding career. After leaving school at fifteen and a few jobs later, I ended up in the retail trade. I decided I would go back to college and did a course in illustration at Wakefield College and received lots of help and encouragement from the staff.

My first inspiration for nostalgic paintings developed from growing up in the fifties and sixties. Times were simpler and things seemed to change slowly. Like our parents before us we played out a lot, games of football and cricket in the street, day trips on steam trains to the seaside and rides in what would now be classic cars. These are the scenes etched in my memory and inspire my nostalgic paintings.

Pictures take up to a month to complete and the traditional medium of oils is my speciality. I work from my studio at home. I am really lucky not to have to get in a car, bus or train to go to work and I usually put in an eight hour day painting, and I may catch up with some paperwork on a night.

There are always distractions when you work from home, but you have to put in the hours – not wait to be in the right mood. I work some weekends or evenings if I have a tight deadline to meet for a particular publishing date.

Trips to classic car and transport rallies are invaluable to soak up the subject's character. Relations too are used as models....my father features in a recently completed painting for Gibsons of a day trip to the beach in the early sixties, called Bucket & Spade being published soon.

Another image, produced by Gibsons, which was inspired by my childhood, is Caravan Holidays, a busy scene of a caravan park, with children paddling in the pool and people lazing on deckchairs. It reminds me of summer caravan holidays at Filey, when I was a boy.

I have worked with Gibsons ever since they entered the puzzle market and have sixteen images in their current range. Gibsons have also commissioned me to paint their fourth in a series of collectable limited edition Christmas puzzles for 2006 entitled Christmas Appeal.

As well as many other notable Jigsaw Companies, I am working with Ravensburger developing a series called Happy Days. It features a nostalgic look at Britain's towns and cities. Lyn mouth and Oxford have been featured and to give puzzlers a sneak preview of what's to come, Happy Days Whitby and London are due out in 2007.

My work has been reproduced for lots of different products, prints, ceramics and greeting cards to name just a few, but it's the world of puzzles that command a lot of my work.

I get letters, phone calls and e mails from people all over the world to compliment the work that I do. To be able to create paintings that give people pleasure and enjoyment is very satisfying and as a professional artist, to have this as a career, I feel very privileged

Kevin Walsh.



Happy Days Oxford



Caravan Holidays

If you would like to purchase Kevin's original artwork or limited edition prints, you will find information on his site. It's well worth the visit. www.kevinwalshoriginals.com

READ ABOUT

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NEWS & VIEWS

Best of the Bunch!

I think I can go one better than Mr Mills from Stafford. My youngest son, not yet at school, had his little friend into play. Unknown to me, they sneaked into the lounge and found 3 x 1000pc jigsaws and decided to 'play' with them. The result was 3000 pieces scattered all over the room. It took me weeks to do the 3 jigsaws-all at the same time- and had to look under furniture & behind curtains till I completed them. I have been an avid puzzler for possibly 60 years and that was the toughest yet.

Sheila Johnstone-Kingussie.

What a challenge! Had it been me, I would have just picked up the pieces and given up. Well done! You deserve your puzzle prize for making us smile at the very thought of this.

The Newsletter

I've read it the right way-upside down, outside in and inside out

And what a lot OUR CLUB has got to shout about

Delightful colours, news and views –Exclusive this and inclusive that

So congratulations Margaret, its official-you are No 1 and I raise my glass and my hat

To you all – a Happy Birthday-but when is it?

And where's the party so we can all pay a visit

But alas if this will not take place

When can we see the editors face?

And who is this lady? Is she blonde, brunette or blue?

I could go on, but that's enough for now

From me to you!

Roy Sheppard – London.

You flatter me with all your charm. The pride I feel will do me harm

We aim to be the No. 1. But have to walk before we run

Our Birthday will take place September. And to celebrate we'll give the Member

Whose letter arrives upon the day. A bonus jigsaw will be on its way

Our very own Special Christmas LE, Will be the gift sent out from me!

As to when you'll see my face...with a smile I can't erase.

We'll keep this for another edition. Forgive me for this small omission.

Mr Mills of Stafford wrote in letter 10 that the jigsaw by Russo was his toughest yet. Please let me know which one. I am enjoying doing puzzles again and your selection is top class.

Brenda Straw-West Hallam.

We owe Mr Mills an apology. We made a mistake with his name. He is actually Mr Baugh from Stafford. The offending Jigsaw was called 'Turkish War-1887-8'.

INTRODUCING JIG QUESTIONS & INFORMATION & MORE

A blonde calls her boyfriend and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get it started."

Her boyfriend asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The blonde says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a tiger."

Her boyfriend decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a Tiger."

He takes her hand and says, "Second, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he sighed, "Let's put all the Frosted Flakes Back in the box."

Hello- I'm Jig! Just come on board to look after your questions and add a little flavour to things. Just don't tell the editor about the jokes!! Or I won't be here long. Looking forward to telling you about some of the 'bad things' I get up to when no-ones looking.

My friend and I have found that often jigsaws in catalogues found in newly purchased jigsaw boxes are deleted after just a short while on the market. This can be very frustrating, when trying to obtain ones choice of jigsaw?

Puzzles can be on retailer's shelves for sometimes a number of years and therefore any catalogues included can be out of date. We badger all our manufacturers for new catalogues each year to send to you when available. So best thing to do is choose from latest cats., to avoid disappointment.

Can you select more 500pc jigsaws please?

Madam tells me that the Official Puzzle Club selections have to be 1000pc because these are the most popular and that there is a huge selection available in the Manufacturers catalogues....Guess she must know, but I had a sneak preview of what's to come and I think there's a multi-pack coming soon, which might just fit the bill. Fun for ALL the family.



WINNING WAYS

Far too easy by the looks of the postbag! Congratulations to Mr I Hodson who is the Winner for Issue 11.

And our Winning Ways question for Issue 12:

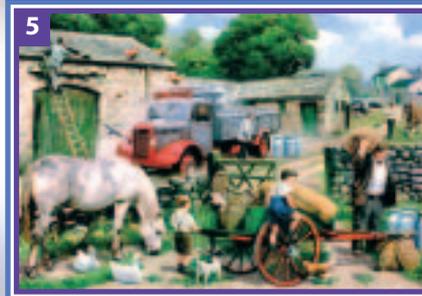
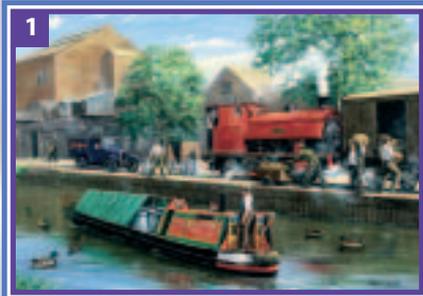
We have featured many of Kevin Walsh's images in this issue. Can you give us the title and Manufacturer of any that are NOT included in our newsletter 12?

Answers by 30th September please.

Our prize for this months Winning Ways is a signed copy of 'Old Friends'. A 2 x 500 piece Jigsaw by Kevin Walsh.

PREVIEWS

Jigsaws from Kevin Walsh's finest art.



1 & 2. From beginning to end- 2 x 500pc 3. Harvest Time-1000pc 4. The Skaters-500 pc
5 & 6. Always on go-2 x 1000pc 7. Noggin & Natter-636 pc 8. The Lakes-500pc
9. Village Postman-1000pc 10. Happy Days Lynmouth-1000pc 11. Bucket & Spade-NEW 1000pc
12. Christmas Appeal 2006-1000pc

OFFICIAL PUZZLE CLUB SELECTED JIGSAWS

An Official Puzzle club exclusive produced for The Puzzle Club, 1000pcs and available to members only. Sailing Boats on the stream by Kevin Walsh is our third limited edition and available at £9.99.

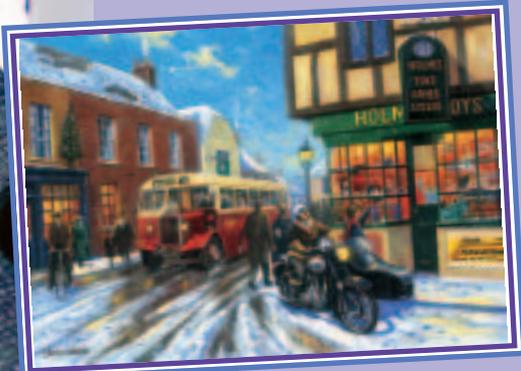
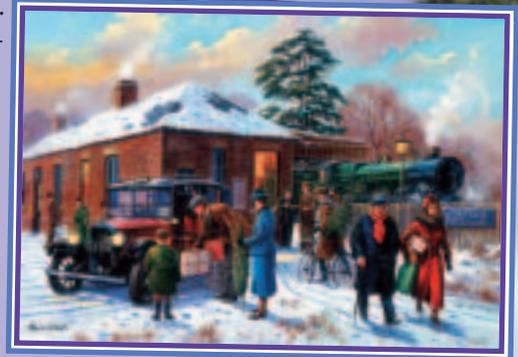
Sailing Boats on Stream



A nostalgic scene from Classic Deluxe. Window Shopping by Kevin Walsh - 1000pc and available at £8.99.

And another great image from Classic Deluxe. Station by Kevin Walsh. With a distinct Christmas feel-1000pcs and available at £8.99.

Station



Window Shopping

To order Sailing Boats on Stream and /or Window Shopping/ and or Station or any of the other products available, complete the Order form below and send with your remittance payable to: (No payments taken or banked until despatch)

The Official UK Puzzle Club, PO Box 3351, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 2WE

Please send me:

	Price	Quantity	Value
Sailing Boats on Stream-Exclusive	£9.99		
Window Shopping by Kevin Walsh	£8.99		
Station by Kevin Walsh	£8.99		
Village Postman	£8.99		
Happy Days Lynmouth/Oxford	£8.99		
Bucket & Spade-NEW	£8.99		
Christmas Appeal -LE 2006	£12.99		
Beginning to End 2 x 500pc	£15.99		
Harvest Time	£10.99		
The Skaters-500pc	£7.99		
Noggin & Natter-636pc	£8.99		
Always on Go-2 x 1000pc	£15.99		
Caravan Holidays	£10.99		
The Lakes	£6.99		
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

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