



This is our last issue of 2006 and we would like to thank you for your continued support, wish you a merry Christmas season and a very happy New Year. We are looking forward to bringing you the best our Manufacturers have to offer during 2007 and new ranges too!

THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB

Jigsaw Collectors and Collections by Tom Tyler from BCD

If you are starting a collection or have a collection I'm sure you'll find a few very interesting tips and ideas from Tom.

Those of us who collect jigsaw puzzles owe a huge debt to Linda Hannas, who recognised the value of old jigsaws and began collecting just after the Second World War. She built up a wonderful collection of pre-war puzzles and wrote her book "The English Jigsaw Puzzle 1760-1890", which is the definitive book for this period.

There are many collectors today, including myself, whose collections run into thousands.

The oldest jigsaw puzzles are the dissected maps made by John Spilsbury, the inventor of puzzles, from 1762 onwards. In the last 10 years two collections of John Spilsbury's puzzles have been auctioned. A cabinet containing 5 dissected maps fetched £17,000 and another collection of 14 incomplete puzzles including just two Spilsbury puzzles made £48,000.

Most of the oldest puzzles are either in collections or museums now but a few months ago I bought a "religious puzzle", old, 4 pieces missing and no box, for £2.00 to a good home! It turned out to be "Pilgrims Progress" made by John Wallis in 1790 and is the oldest puzzle in my collection.

Jigsaw puzzles divide into four categories. Wooden Adult, wooden children's, cardboard adult and cardboard children's. Because of the large range of puzzles, most collectors specialize on a particular maker like Victory, Chad Valley, Arrow, Gibson and less on particular subjects. My own collection is mainly of Chad Valley advertising puzzles.

As with all collectables, the value of a puzzle will depend on its rarity and the supply/demand rule. Most puzzles are still reasonable with regard to cost and £50 can buy a huge range of old and attractive puzzles in good boxes.

Many valuable puzzles are sold at auction, the most valuable being the larger wooden puzzles from pre 1939. Puzzles with pieces missing have a much reduced value;

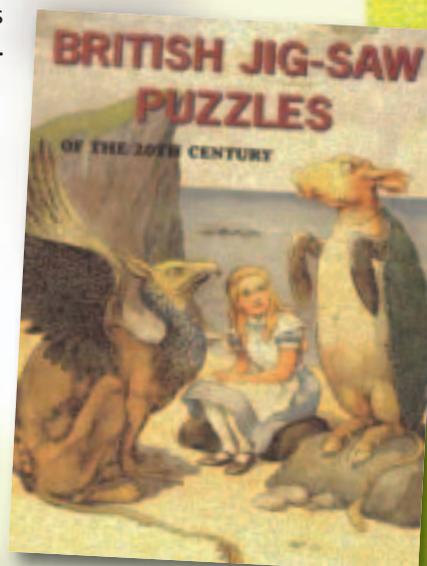
however a good dissectologist can make replacements for you.

One of the greatest difficulties is obtaining information. Many of the oldest Jigsaws were not catalogued therefore in many cases the only way of knowing what a manufacturer produced is to find the actual puzzles.

If you are starting to collect jigsaw puzzles, choose a manufacturer or theme that really interests you. Learn all you can about the puzzles and look for booklets or leaflets with background information. Keep a catalogue of your own collection and don't refuse an incomplete jigsaw if it is rare - you may be able to upgrade it later. Don't be too concerned about the value of your collection.

If the puzzles are reasonably scarce, and also attractive the collection will appreciate in value, but more important, you will be a happy collector.

Tom has published a very interesting book called 'British Jigsaw Puzzles of the 20th Century', which is available at £12.00. If you're an avid collector or planning a collection this will give you some great tips and ideas!



READ ABOUT

-  **Jigsaw Puzzle Collecting.**
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NEWS & VIEWS

Best of the Bunch!

There still seems to be lot's of discussions on 'Boards' where & how' so I thought I would add my sixpence to the pot. I've found one of the cheapest ways is hardboard. The sheets come 8 x 4 feet and can easily be cut. What I did was keep the big boards for the largest jigsaws. Usually, the larger jigsaws are supplied in two or more packets. I have one, that takes 1000-1500pcs and a smaller one to do 500/600 or less. When not in use they go behind cupboards, sofa etc. I sort the jigsaws at first-a bit time consuming but it pays off in the long run- Edges then colour bocks if possible e.g.: trees, sky, water etc. These I keep in old shallow boxes and lids. Keeping the picture lid under the inner part, takes longer, but that way it's more of a challenge. Did you find anything out about the picture of two children playing trains, possibly an old - very old -now Waddington?

Jacqueline Howe - Doddington.

Jacqueline has recently ordered the Magna Carte...so we now have two talented people attempting this mammoth jigsaw (6000pcs). Mr Beniston informs me that he has approximately 800 pieces to go to complete this and hopes to have it completed by Christmas. What patience you both have! Be interested to know who takes the least time. Good luck (Don't forget to make your selection for the Best of the Bunch prize).

I keep the current on the go puzzle on a large piece of hardboard on the dining room table, with another piece on top, Velcro cornered only to keep from sliding. A rather complicated puzzle was about 60% completed, which had taken a month, as and when I could snatch a few minutes. My son came to spend the weekend and I asked him to lift it off the table and put it on the floor out of the way. He said he'd put it in another room, but I asked him not to as he would have to tip it to get it through the doorway and the puzzle would slide. "No it won't" said 40year old Robert "I can manage quite well". The next thing I heard was "Oops! Sorry mother" and my puzzle was on the carpet in a heap. He was lucky to see his 41st birthday! To date it's the only one of my large collection I have not had the heart to do again.

Corinne Hunt-Southampton.

We though you deserved a prize too! It's great to do a puzzle a few times- there is always something different to see, however, we quite understand why you've put this to one side.

On a recent visit by a cousin (aged 87 years) he noticed an incomplete puzzle on the table. "Only ever did one of these in my life" he commented. It would appear he served with the 'Long Range Desert Patrol' in North Africa and was taken prisoner by the Germans and sent to a POW camp in southern Italy, where a fellow POW, a Scot, had a jigsaw puzzle of Stirling Castle. It was completed at various times by fellow POWs including my cousin and later sold to an Italian Guard for a very large sausage. Price of the jigsaw 6d (old money)-2.5pence in today's currency. Not bad value would you say.

No Name Please.

Perhaps we could find this or a similar jigsaw and send it to your cousin. He may renew his interest as a potential puzzler or at least give him a small enjoyable memory of what must have been a horrible period in his life.

JIG'S CORNER QUESTIONS & INFORMATION & MORE

Hello fellow puzzlers. It's just ME!

*With winter now upon us, and nights so long and cold
I go to bed real early and with my pillows mould
A little cosy barrier so I can sit upright
With my board upon my lap and my table to the light.
It's really warm and cosy with my hottie by my toes
I bet you didn't think that I'd be up to making 'prose'*

I always enjoyed doing "talking jigsaws", puzzles produced by Don Scott Associates in America, but after several years of being unable to obtain them, I emailed him to find out if they are still being produced. He informs me that costs were preventing him from producing these, but was working on a new line for the future. Perhaps you will know more of this?

Margaret is going out to the States (to celebrate hers and her sister's birthday) in February. Will see if she has time to get in touch with Don Scott and let you know.

Does anyone know of anyone who would like to buy completed not now required jigsaws which are taking up lots of space. One of our members has offered to sell her collection for £2.00 per 1000pc jigsaw? Let me know if you're interested and I'll put you in touch.

Boobed last month! Didn't publish the sizes for Thomas Kinkade's 4 in one collection...

Mountain Retreat 500pc - Bridge of Hope 350pc - St Nicholas Circle 200pc & Make a Wish Cottage 100pc. A great collection for new and old 'puzzlers' alike.

I went online to order 'Christmas Shopping' and was surprised to find this impossible. Please let me know when this will be possible for future orders.

Shouldn't be a problem. We get lots of orders from the site. Could be that our IT guy is yet to put up some of our images. Sorry! Will get this corrected.

All our members can now order on line. Our Gold members can also now get their discount. Simply remember to key in your Member No. and if applicable, your 10% will automatically be deducted

Looking forward to hearing from you with all your questions?

Have a great Xmas & New Year. See you in 2007.

Happy puzzling, Jig.



MEET THE ARTIST

Susan Brabeau has an uncanny talent for capturing people; their moods, their idiosyncrasies and their body language. The Artist enables us to eavesdrop on a series of private moments telling a story. Also throughout her work we find a love of earlier, simpler times.

Susan has been chosen by Artist's Magazine, out of 10000 contestants, to be in the top two percent of Portrait Painters. She keeps busy with her portraiture work including heads of state for the state capital in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she resides. She also uniquely photographs families and paints them in fun scenarios.



WINNING WAYS

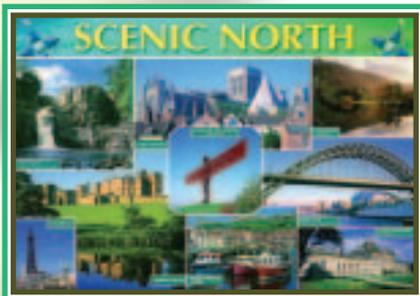
Well done to all our competition entrants. Not one wrong answer so we've placed you all in the pot and asked our first visitor of the day to draw out our winning ticket. The answer was 1500pc and our winner of the 1500pc jigsaw is Mrs J E Barber from Bideford. Congratulations.

And our Winning Ways question for Issue 15.

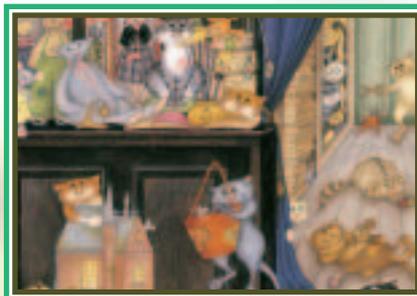
What do you do with your OLD puzzles? The member with the most innovative answer can look forward to winning a JIGSTORE or a JIGSAFE.

PREVIEWS

Coming soon: Available January 2007.



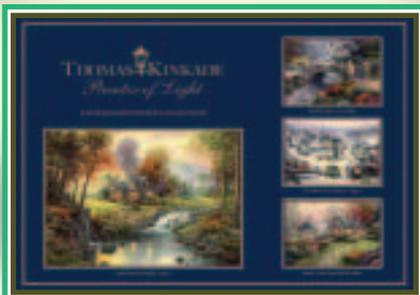
Scenic North
1000pc (Ravensburger)



Cats in the Toy Shop
1000pc (Ravensburger)



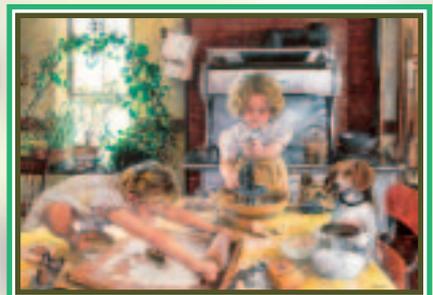
Lifting the Crop
1000pc (Ravensburger)



Thomas Kinkadee 4 in one
(Ravensburger)



Susan Brabeau - The Milliners
1000pc (Gibsons)



Susan Brabeau - Too Many Cooks
500pc (Gibsons)

SPECIAL OFFER

2000pc Jigroll with 1000pc Jigsaw free at £24.99 (postage included) - normal retail £29.99. Please allow up to 14 days for delivery as these will be sent separately.



Tower Bridge

OFFICIAL PUZZLE CLUB SELECTED JIGSAWS

A 1000pc full of life Jigsaw from Artist Susan Brabeau. Farmhouse Auction is produced by Gibson and available at £10.99.

Farmhouse Action



An old favourite from Gibson's Thomas Kinkade Collection – Cobblestone Christmas 1000pc @ £11.99.

One of Ravensburgers 2007 jigsaws- Indian Chief 1000pc Jigsaw from Artist Howard Robinson available to club members @ £8.99.

Cobblestone Christmas

Indian Chief



To order Farmhouse Auction and /or Cobblestone Christmas/ and or Indian Chief 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
Farmhouse Auction	10.99		
Cobblestone Christmas	11.99		
Indian Chief	8.99		
The Milliners	10.99		
Too Many Cooks-500pc	7.99		
Thomas Kinkade 4 in One	12.99		
Christmas puzzleball® 6 designs (each) 60pc. Please specify. Limited	4.99		
2000pc Jigroll with free puzzle	24.99		Sent direct
Jigsaw-1000pc	39.99		
Jigsaw-500pc	29.99		
Jigsaw-1500pc	49.99		
Jigframe-500pc	29.99		
Jigframe-1000pc	39.99		
Jigsaw	14.99		
Jigboard-500pc	11.99		
Jigboard-1000pc	14.99		
Jigstore-500pc	15.99		
Jigstore-1000pc	29.99		
Postage and Packing			£3.50
Gold members deduct 10% from above prices		Total Value:	

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

Please debit £ _____ from my: MASTERCARD SWITCH VISA

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* Please attach cardholder's details if different from above

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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

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