



What a great response last month to our KINKADE information and puzzle club selected jigsaws. Thank you for your patience. We grossly underestimated and reordered twice. However, all of our Kinkade range is back in stock.

THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB

How jigsaws are made

Nearly 2,000 hours are required to produce a puzzle from start to finish. This process typically stretches over about 12 months. The key steps include printing and laminating the artwork, cutting the pieces, and packaging the finished puzzle.

Printing

1. The first step is to select the artwork and print it in a suitable format. The most common process used to print artwork for puzzles is lithography. Lithography uses a plate, which is specially treated to absorb either water or oil. The portion of the plate, which is not to be printed, is dampened with water while the printable portions are coated with grease, which attracts the oil-based ink. When ink is applied to the plate, it sticks only to the grease coated image. As the plate is brought into contact with paper, the image is transferred. Many puzzle pictures may be prepared on the same lithography sheet to save paper and minimize press time. After printing, the litho sheets are laminated onto thick cardboard/ or wood and allowed to dry for several days before they are sent to die cut press.

Cutting

2. Puzzle pieces today are mass-produced in a process known as die cutting. A die cutting press uses a sharp, flat metal ribbon to stamp out the individual pieces. The artist's drawings of the cuts are sent to rule-bend experts who bend razor sharp steel rules into the shape of the puzzle pieces. For a 500-piece puzzle of average complexity, it may take 400 hours to make a die. Three or four such dies maybe made for puzzles of the same size and shape. The metal rules are then pounded into a wood mounted die. One side of this metal ribbon is fixed in a wooden block. When this block is pressed with sufficient force onto the softer cardboard backing, the backing surface is cut into the desired shape. The laminated artwork is sent through the die cut press, and forced down under high pressure. When the die is extracted, the artwork and underlying cardboard are left with cuts in the shape of the die.

Packaging

3. After leaving the press, the sheets go through a breaker, which separates the puzzle pieces and drops them into their package, typically a cardboard box. Today, it is standard for the box to feature a picture of the completed puzzle as a guide, which became a feature in the mid-1930s. These boxes then go through final packaging, shrink wrapping, etc. Finally, they are shipped to retail stores.

The Future

While the artwork used in puzzles is constantly changing to keep pace with current consumer tastes, there have been few manufacturing innovations in recent years. Nonetheless, there are areas from which future developments are likely to come. As noted above, quality customized wooden puzzles are gaining in popularity. One company, I. C. Ayer & Co. has developed novel computer-controlled water jets to automate the cutting of wooden puzzles. Will jigsaw puzzles of the future be electronic without either cardboard or wood? Virtual puzzles are constructed by computer, and exist only on monitor screens. Special software allows puzzle aficionados to continue to enjoy the challenge of reassembling the scrambled pictures without the need for a physical construct.

Hopefully, whilst this technology exists on several Jigsaw sites at present, including our own, we can continue to enjoy the wonderful fulfilment that comes with having assembled, perhaps mounted, and viewed our finished jigsaw.










Paris 1



Paris 2

READ ABOUT

-  **From Manufacture to you!**
-  **News & Views**
-  **Previews & Coming soon**
-  **Reader's letters**
-  **Official Puzzle Club selected Jigsaws**
-  **Jigs corner-Keeping you informed**
-  **Winning Ways**

NEWS & VIEWS

Best of the Bunch!

Well after two months, three days and 8 hours and several friends later, we've completed the 24,000 Life jigsaw. We assembled it in 6 parts each 4000pcs and then put the whole together. Quite a challenge, but good fun. Each night was celebrated with a beer and a takeaway or a meal provided by the biggest contributing team. For 64 days we've lived like Kings, everything from humble fish and chips to our celebration dinner of fillet steak, barbecued to perfection. Not only have we had a great time and great fun, everyone now feels a huge sense of achievement and we're now making a frame to preserve our masterpiece and remind us of what fun it was to work together.

Anthony Ballard and team of 21 fellow students - Bristol.

Is this a challenge to your fellow members? We have several who are following you in this quest and we are looking forward to hearing from them. Can anyone beat this?

I am wondering if anybody can give me some information on a jigsaw puzzle I purchased a few years ago in a charity shop. It looks quite old. It's wooden with what seems to be a paper picture stuck on it. The pieces don't interlock like a modern puzzle-just sort of lay alongside each other. Also two of the pieces are in the shape of the letters V.M. unfortunately it is not in its original box, just an old pre-war style chocolate box. Not sure which war - 1st or 2nd? This has always been a 'puzzle' to me and any information would be appreciated.

Mrs W Salt - Frinton on Sea.

Does this ring any bells for anyone! Am going to send the photos you sent to Rev. Tom Tyler who specialises in antique and rare jigsaw puzzles and hope we can get some more information for you.

I was pleased to see details of the National Jigsaw Competition. I've often wondered if there was one. It is impossible for me to go and watch, perhaps someone will write about it in the newsletter. How big are the jigsaws? How hard? How long is allowed? How many people take part? Etc? etc? I'd love to hear all about it.

We'll be attending the competition on July 21st and will answer ALL those questions in our August issue. It is hosted by Mike Jupp and I understand that the jigsaw selected is one of his own designs....Will let you know more.

Our most sincere apologies to both Jean Senior & Mrs Cooper for mixing up your letters last month....

JIG'S CORNER QUESTIONS & INFORMATION & MORE

Her who has to be obeyed has excelled herself this month... We have a new thoroughly spoilt addition to the team. She's got a 'GREAT DANE PUPPY' called Lou. Here she is! Haven't been asked to walk her yet but watch this space.



Hello Joan from Norwich. You wanted a list of Kevin Walsh puzzles. We haven't ignored you, but need a little time to put the information together. There are four featured in this newsletter for a start. Two are available now and the Paris 1 & 2 will be coming in during August.

JUST IN:

Wasgij No.14 -Football madness and Wasgij Xmas 3 (wasn't expecting this until August)-sold out but more coming next month.

******* As a Newt & Drunk as a Skunk came in last week and should all be on their way. If you like challenging-these are for you! Look out for High as a Kite & Blind as a Bat coming in in September.***

Still no news from Ravensburger on our winner. Will let you know a.s.a.p.

BUYING FROM US confusing?

We lay our price list out in sizes by Manufacturer. All you need do is fill in the order form with the item number or description. Our Gold member's price list already has the discount taken off. All catalogued items are available from the Club. Clementoni & Educa product is listed on a separate price list due to availability. Still confused? Ring our order line if you are unsure: 01 18 9789599.

Just past the longest day and guess what! Christmas is coming next month! Yes! I thought it a bit strange too.

Keep on Puzzling-Jig



WINNING WAYS

Lots of correct answers to our 'Southend Pier' question so Jig has drawn the winning entry. Congratulations to Mrs Y E Lanham.

Your Limited edition Jigsaw will be sent off soon.

AND OUR WINNING WAYS COMPETITION FOR ISSUE 22!

Where in the World is Vermont?

Answers by 21st July please.



PREVIEWS

We now have eight 1000pc great 'Puzzle Club' exclusive jigsaws in our extensive range. With two more Mike Jupp jigsaws due in September.....Blind as a Bat & High as a Kite. Watch out for our special 'Puzzle Club' logo on these four exclusives and the differences!



1 Floral Doorway-Limited quantities available
4 Drunk as a Skunk by Mike Jupp

2 The Old Farm field-Limited quantities available
5 Sailing Boats on the Stream by Kevin Walsh

3 ****As a Newt by Mike Jupp
6 Christmas Shopping by Kevin Walsh

AVAILABLE AUGUST

These two fabulous colourful jigsaws are a result of the combined talents of two very famous and popular artists, Howard Robinson & Kevin Walsh featuring a beautiful Paris street, available early August



Paris 1



Paris 2

SUMMER SPECIALS FROM TREFL

Purchase three jigsaws from our list this month and receive one of the following for just £3.50 (to cover additional postage) simply specify against selection.



T10105-Grand Canal Venice



T26044-Town Hall-1500pc



T27017-Italian Mountains-2000pc



T40006-Coral Reef Circular-723pc

OFFICIAL PUZZLE CLUB SELECTED JIGSAWS

One of our newest designs from Trefl- Autumn in Vermont 1000pc.
Scenic jigsaw available at £8.99.

T10124 Autumn in Vermont



Still Life Pumpkins - 1000pc Jigsaw from
Trefl - made in Poland and available at
£8.99.

T10156 Still Life-Pumpkins

And brand new from Ravensburger, Autumn
Collection- Time for Refreshments-1000pc by
Alan King (Please allow 14-21 days for delivery) -
£9.99.



R15692 Time for Refreshment

To order Autumn in Vermont and or /Still Life Pumpkins/ and or Time for Refreshments 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 don't want to spoil your newsletter, simply put your request on paper).

Please send me:

	Price	Quantity	Value
Autumn in Vermont-1000pc	£8.99		
Still Life, Pumpkins-1000pc	£8.99		
Time for Refreshment-1000pc	£9.99		
Floral Doorway-1000pc	£9.99		
Old Farmfield-1000pc	£9.99		
****As a Newt-1000pc	£10.99		
Drunk as a Skunk-1000pc	£10.99		
Sailing Boats on Stream-1000pc	£9.99		
Christmas Shopping-1000pc	£9.99		
Paris 1 -July/August delivery	£9.99		
Paris 2 -July/August delivery	£9.99		
Grand Canal Venice-1000pc	£8.99/£3.50		
Town Hall-1500pc	£11.99/£3.50		
Italian Mountains-2000pc	£14.99/£3.50		
Coral Reef-Circular -723pc	£7.99/£3.50		
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

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