



Doesn't seem a month since we put together issue 46.....Which kept us tremendously busy. Seems our members are huge fans of Linda Jane Smith and her fabulous 'Cats'

Thank you all for your many requests and suggestions. We'll cover as many of your suggested articles as we can over the next few months. Your contributions are always appreciated.

THE OFFICIAL UK PUZZLE CLUB

Donald Fraser Gould McGill,

(28 January 1875 – 13 October 1962) was an English graphic artist whose name has become synonymous with a whole genre of saucy seaside postcards that were sold mostly in small shops in British coastal towns. The cards feature an array of attractive young women, fat old ladies, drunken middle aged men, honeymoon couples and vicars.

He has been called 'The King Of The Saucy Postcard', and his work is still collected and appreciated for his artistic skill, its power of social observation and earthy sense of humour. Even at the height of his fame he only earned three guineas a design, but today his original artwork can fetch thousands of pounds.

McGill was born in London in 1875. He lost a foot in a school rugby accident, and, having studied at Blackheath Proprietary School, spent most of his life in the Blackheath area of south-east London (living at 5 Bennett Park, SE3 - a blue plaque location).

He was a naval draughtsman until his career in postcards began accidentally in 1904 when an in-law encouraged him after seeing an illustrated get-well card he had made for a sick nephew. Within a year it was his full-time occupation. He studied art and married the daughter of the owner of Crowder's Music Hall in Greenwich.

McGill spent virtually the whole of his career creating the distinctive colour washed drawings which were then reproduced as postcards. He ranked his output

according to their vulgarity as mild, medium and strong, with strong being much the best sellers. His family however was steadfastly respectable. He said of his two daughters: "They ran like stags whenever they passed a comic postcard shop".

During the First World War he produced anti German propaganda in the form of humorous post cards.

In 1941, the renowned author and commentator George Orwell wrote an essay on his work entitled "The Art of Donald McGill". Orwell stated that he was not sure if McGill was a real person or simply a trade name.

At the age of 80, McGill fell foul of several local censorship committees which culminated in a major trial held in Lincoln on 15 July 1954. The charge was breaking the 1857 Obscene Publications Act. He was eventually found guilty and made to pay a £50 fine and £25 costs. The wider result was a devastating blow to the saucy postcard industry. Many postcards were destroyed as a result and retailers cancelled orders. Several of the smaller companies were made bankrupt as they survived on very small margins.

In the late 1950s, the level of censorship eased off and the market recovered. In 1957, McGill gave evidence before the House Select Committee set up in order to amend the 1857 Act.

Over the span of his career McGill produced an estimated 12,000 designs, of which 200 million copies are estimated to have been printed. He died in 1962 with all his designs for the 1963 season already prepared. He was buried in Streatham Park Cemetery. Despite their wide circulation, McGill earned no royalties from his designs; in his will, his estate was valued at just £735.

One of his postcards, "Do you like Kipling?" "I don't know, you naughty boy, I've never kiplped!" holds a world record for selling the most copies at over 6,000,000.

READ ABOUT

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NEWS & VIEWS

Readers Letters

Our Star Letter

What about a savings club? For Christmas or presents through the year. Send what amount you can afford, so when you have enough money saved you fill in an advance payment form and wait for the puzzles to arrive. We used to do something like this at our school (but that was books) we sent money through the year and when we had enough in the pot, we filled in an order form and sent it off. Well with the credit crunch and people being careful with their money, it could help them out as well as yourselves. They could make payments on line or through the post etc. Don't know if this would help out O.A.Ps, one parent, low wage earners etc. who would love puzzles but find it hard or just out of their reach.

Mrs Elaine Rivers-Blackheath.

If this idea would help our members, then we would gladly instigate it. So do let us know if Elaine's idea is something you would like to do . We would need to set up an accounting system to deal with this so let us know your views and we'll sort it.

I thought club members would like to hear about my 'jigsaw table'. It is quite the best present I have had this year. Using my boards, I can easily manage 500pc & 1000pc jigsaws in the comfort of my arm chair. When not in use, for 'jigging' I can use it as a table for my meals, tilt it to comfortably read a book or a newspaper or write letters to my favourite club! My Grandson found it on 'Jigthings' website and bought it for me for my birthday. I know you sell the 'Jigthings' range and wondered if you would make it available to our fellow members?

Helen Rendell-Mousehole

We have spoken to 'Jigthings' and intend to add this to our range in September. It is not cheap, but has lots of uses and benefits which we will go into in issue 48. We will also cover the other items in their range for the benefit of our newer members. Many thanks for passing this on.

WINNING WAYS

Winning Ways winners for Issue 45, & 46 will be announced in September

Winning Ways Competition for Issue 47

What was Donald McGill charged with in 1954? Answers by August 31st please. Winner will receive a 1000pc jigsaw puzzle of their choice.

JIG'S CORNER

QUESTIONS, INFORMATION & MORE

Had a bit of a problem over the last month! Lou has taken a dislike to 'CATS'. And everyone here kept talking about them. She protects her garden like a 'sentry' and wow betide anything other than a squirrel that tries to get in. Every time someone mentioned cats she tore outside like a thing possessed! So if you're still after 'Crazy Cats' talk quietly.

Q) I came across a brochure in one of my puzzles by Ravensburger, but when I enquired I was told these were not available in the UK?

A) Ravensburger UK has their own range. Occasionally they will choose some from the German catalogue, but mostly they have a more 'UK' range.

Q) I prefer to do 500pc jigsaws as I can sit and work these on a tray. There are some really nice pictures in 1000pc. Would these be available in 500?

A) As far as I'm aware, there is just one manufacturer that we deal with at present that produces a jigsaw in more than one size. I guess that's because 1000pc jigsaws are by far the best sellers. However, we've taken note of the many requests for 500pc jigsaws and feature these monthly in our newsletter previews.

She's off on her holidays again in August, so although we will have a skeleton staff, the office may be unmanned from time to time between 16th - 30th August. She's sure to keep in touch so if you do get the answer service, do leave a message and we'll get back to you.

AND LASTLY – JIGPIN News...

Proofs on its way. Could be good to go in September!

Thanks for the support- already got a bunch of requests - but no prices yet!

Whilst the Cats away!!!

We'll be having a 'puzzling' time!

Jig



PREVIEWS

NEW 2009 Jigsaws - Available now.



Sweet Memories in Tins

1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s
Excellent Gifts -250pc
Jigsaws @ £7.00
Also available as 1000pc
Jigsaws (no tin) @ £11.00

Limited Edition Christmas Releases

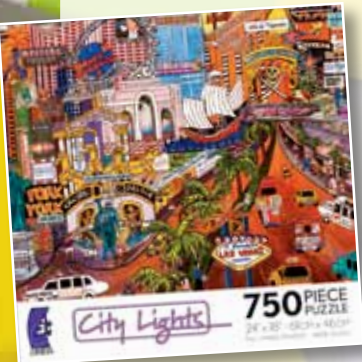


CT0017 Heaven on Earth 1000pc
Limited Edition Jigsaw @ £10.00



FJ10964 Christmas Shopping
1000pc Jigsaw @ £10.00

Ceaco 2009



CS2958 City Lights
Las Vegas - 750pc



3327-7 Puss In Boots - 1000pc



CS2976 101 Dogs
& a Cat - 750pc



13039 Off to home we Go - 1000pc
Disney Fine Art from Falcon

And for our many Wasgij Collectors

Original Wasgij 1-4 in 500pc @ £7.50 each

10950 Sunday Driver (1)

10951 Happy Holidays (2)

10952 Full Monty
Fever (3)



10953 A Day to
Remember (4)



Decades from Falcon/Jumbo

All three Decades puzzles are available in 500 pc.
Quote ref: 10936, 10937 or 10938 for 500 versions



10935 1970s
Decades 1000pc

10934 1960s
Decades 1000pc

10933 1950s
Decades 1000pc

And Finally

**Three Fine Art jigsaws from Ravenburger
Autumn Collection @ £10.00**



15193 Art Deco
1000pc



15402 Venice
1000pc



15462 Ballet School
1000pc

OFFICIAL PUZZLE CLUB SELECTED JIGSAWS



Seaside Antics by Donald McGill. Have fun reminiscing over these famous images. From Falcon 2009 Collection. Available at **£10.00**



Images from the Ladybird Archives from Falcon 2 x 500pc. Wartime memories - available at **£10.00**



A Trip down Memory lane Ladybird Classic Collection -1000pc Available at **£10.00**

To order **Seaside Antics** and/or **Wartime** and/or **Ladybird Classic Collection** 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 **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)

Code No/Description	Price	Quantity	Value
13956- Seaside Antics -1000pc	10.00		
10930- Wartime - 2 x 500pc	10.00		
10929- Ladybird Classic Collection - 1000pc	10.00		
1940s/1950s/1960s/1970s-Sweet Memories Tins-250pc Please select	8.00 each		
1940s/1950s/1960s/1970s-Sweet Memories - 1000pc Jigsaws Boxed Please Select	11.00 each		
3327-5 Puss in Boots - 1000pc	10.00		
CS2976-City Lights Las Vegas - 750pc	8.00		
CS2979-100 Cats & a Fish-750pc	8.00		
13039-Disney -Off Home we Go - 1000pc	10.00		
10933-Decades 1950s - 1000pc	10.00		
10934-Decades 1960s - 1000pc	10.00		
10935-Decades 1970s - 1000pc	10.00		
10936/10937/10938-Decades 500pc (please select)	7.00 each		
10950/10951/10952/10953 - 500pc Original Wasgij	7.50 each		
CT0017-Heaven on Earth-LE -1000pc	10.00		
FJ10964-Christmas Shopping LE-1000	10.00		
15193/15402/15462	10.00		
Ref:			
Postage & Packing			£3.50
<i>Gold Members- Please deduct 10% from above prices, excl p&p</i>			Total Value

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Membership No. _____

I enclose cheque/postal order for value £ _____ made payable to the Official UK Puzzle Club

Please debit my Credit/Debit card for £ _____ Card Type Master Card Visa Maestro/Solo

*Card No: _____

Issue No: _____ Security Code : _____

Valid From: _____ Expiry Date : _____

Signature: _____

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 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
 For Trevor Mitchells Fine Art originals and prints visit:
www.nostalgicart.co.uk or telephone Trevor on 01274 589053
 General Sales: Tel: 0118 978 9599
 Helpline: retailers in your area, and general membership enquiries. Tel: 0118 978 9599