



The Tale of the Lost Sheep

Not so very long ago, in the lovely village of Overton, there lived a Shepherd who tended a flock of sheep. The Shepherd's name was Ivor. Ivor knew the names of all his sheep and could recognise each of them from a long way off – even when it was foggy or getting dark. One summer's day, as Ivor whistled his way along the North Field path, he immediately realised something was wrong. One of his sheep was missing! He scanned the flock again to make sure but no, one of his lambs had definitely disappeared. It was then that Ivor spotted a small gap in the hedge, but the little sheep was nowhere to be seen. As you follow the clues on this trail you should catch up with the sheep and discover what happened to him. You should also discover the Shepherd's family name, the sheep's name, and how many sheep were in the fold.

Make your way to the Biodiversity Meadow on the Kingsclere Road – at the bottom of the North Field Path, opposite Flashetts. It's also called Little Meadow. You can park by St. Mary's Church or the cemetery and walk along to the chicane in the road, heading away from the village.

Sometimes male lambs are called Tups so that is what we'll call the lamb until we discover his real name. Tups had often heard the children from Overton School talking about Little Meadow and how a sea-urchin fossil had been found in it which was 70 million years old and also a flintstone which was thousands of years old and which had been heated in a fire and then popped into a pot of water to help it boil! But what he liked most about the Meadow was the human sundial. Here the children would stand on the wooden marker, and the shadow of their bodies would tell him whether it was nearly tea-time!

1 Tups' favourite game was to leap in and out of the wooden posts with his friends playing Peek-a-Baa! Standing on the month marker, how many of the little wooden posts are there in the front row?

2 What is the name given on the board to the type of fossil found here?
A Shepherd's . (It's 'Purse' – we have given you the answer in case the board is missing).

So, here he was, little Tups, outside Little Meadow and ready for an adventure! But which way to go? He liked the idea of following the path up the hill to the school, but his mother had taught him a nursery rhyme which suggested this was against the rules. So, he decided instead, to cross the road and head toward the village because he could smell his favourite lambs-tail lettuce growing in the allotments, and he hoped to have a little nibble on his way past!

3 How many of the black "Shepherd's-Crook" lamp posts did Tups pass **on the left-hand side** on his way to Church Road?
(Include the one with the school sign on it.)

As Tups reached the corner of Kingsclere Road and Church Road his feet were beginning to feel rather sore from the pavement and he was glad to spot the lush-looking grass on the other side of the road. Looking carefully all three ways Tups crossed over the road and into the old water meadow by the ORC sign. This meadow used to be deliberately flooded to improve the soil for growing crops.

4 What is the name of this facility?
Street Sports Ground.

You can imagine Tups nibbling his way through the grass on his way towards the village, but you should walk along the pavement on Kingsclere Road. The first house you pass on your left is built on the site of the Old Penny School. Old Penny was not the name of the Headteacher but refers to the fee of 2p per week! Tups felt hot in the sun because he was too young to have his coat sheared and it was starting to get quite thick. And soon he began to feel a little thirsty and so he was glad when he reached the river and could have a drink while he watched the trout playing hide-and-seek in the rushes.

"Hello! What have we here?" a voice suddenly asked and gave Tups quite a shock. The man whose voice it was lifted Tups up and began to carry him across the river. Tups wasn't sure whether to be frightened or glad because he wanted to reach the village, but he hadn't known how to cross the river. Nowadays there are bridges on Kingsclere Road, but it wasn't always so. The road simply entered the river and you had to get your legs wet! Not so long ago the village children raced down the river here in their tin baths! The man continued to carry Tups towards the centre of the village and as he passed Town Mill, Tups noticed a large, black swing-hoist on the wall opposite the bridge, used for lifting bags of corn. Then he spotted a plaque on the wall saying that Town Mill is mentioned in the Domesday Survey.

5 What year was the Domesday Survey written?
A.D. .



Tups had heard quite a bit about Town Mill. He knew that the Anglo Saxons had shaped the river here so it was fast enough to turn a water wheel and that the wheel had been used to grind corn and acorns (to feed pigs); he also knew a fair bit about plants and animals as we shall soon see.

At this point Tups was still being carried tightly by the man up the slope and along by the railings to the crossroads and here he spotted the first of the animals he would meet on his journey.

6 What animal could he see on the pub sign on the left at the crossroads?
A white .

This inn has been serving food and drink to hungry travellers for over 500 years! It was one of the places where the carriages carrying the mail from London would change horses on their way to Exeter.

7 How many miles is it to London from here?

But it wasn't the inn which caught Tups' attention. It was something altogether far noisier and smellier! The whole of Winchester Street was heaving to the sound of bleating sheep! At least 70,000 of them!! Tups had stumbled upon the Overton Sheep Fair! What a racket they made! But then, for the first time on his adventure, Tups began to feel a little bit frightened. His father had told him about the Sheep Fair and how sheep and lambs were sold and then disappeared for ever! Is that what was going to happen to these sheep? Is that what was going to happen to him?! He shuddered at the thought and decided he must try and escape from the man's hold. His captor crossed over diagonally and began to walk along the left side of Winchester Street. Then, all of a sudden, the man tripped over a sleeping sheepdog and fell headlong to the ground! Tups quickly managed to leap free and disappear into the crowd - but which way to go? He knew that the Sheep Fair wasn't a good place for a lamb but on the other hand he had spotted something that looked rather fun in the distance - a fairground carousel! Well! What a difficult decision! But with little more than a second thought Tups decided to take a gamble and gambolled further along Winchester Street towards the carousel.

8 Hurrying on he saw the Vets which he had never had to visit,
and he noticed the logo was an animal's print.

9 And at Batten's Avenue (opposite the Methodist Church) he saw that it had twice won the "Street Award" and which still has lovely hanging baskets in the summer.

10 At No 37 Winchester Street he spotted one of his favourite plants on the house name. What was it?
Cottage.

11 At No 41 Winchester Street he spotted a painted lace curtain and some interesting hanging basket hooks -
one with a chicken and chicks on and on the other hook he saw a and a mouse.

He stopped for a quick nibble of grass outside St Luke's Hall where the Community Church meet, and beyond that he saw Yield House which was once a Doctors' Surgery and where an operating table was recently found in the loft! But what Tups really had his eye on was the carousel and before he knew it, he was there! Laughing children were riding up and down on their favourite animal and, just as they were climbing off at the end of their turn, Tups saw his chance to jump up and take his place on the carousel. He knew he would have to keep completely still and not make a sound if one of the children chose to sit on him and, sure enough, as the music started up again, a little girl jumped onto his back, clutching a large toy sheep. Tups managed to take her weight without moving but just as they were going round for the second time he couldn't resist the urge to look up at the little girl and say: "Baa!" "Mummy! Mummy!" the little girl shouted. "The sheep said 'Baa!'" "I know, I know" replied her mother. "I replaced its batteries yesterday!" "No! No!" shouted the little girl and in the excitement Tups managed to slip away and found himself on the other side of Winchester Street.



12 Glancing along the pavement away from the village Tups could see another four-footed animal on another very old pub – this time a Grey .

Tups knew that this breed of dog is the second fastest animal on earth and can reach 30 mph in 3 strides but what he didn't know was whether this one was friendly or not! Not wanting to take the chance he decided to head back towards the centre of the village.



Soon Tups found himself outside the Redfort Tandoori. This restaurant stands on the site of the old village Reading Room. This is where men could come and read newspapers, play games and have a drink – but not the women! Hurrying along towards the Methodist Church Tups stopped outside the two gates with Crosses on and looked up to the sky because he had heard the sound of another of his favourite animals.

13 “I have four hooves, a tail and mane and sit atop a weathervane”.
Can you spot me? I’m a .

Soon he came to an old house called Pickwicks, which was built in about 1480.

14 What sort of hat is Mr Pickwick holding in his hand?
A hat.

15 As he came to the News and Events board Tups noticed that
Overton Parish Council had celebrated its in 1994.

Nearing the Community Centre, Tups saw two bright red telephone boxes which surprised him because he had heard there was just one and it used to be painted white during the World War II blackout to stop people bumping into it at night! Looking up from the telephone boxes Tups spotted the Community Centre and Library which used to be the village school and he could just make out the date when the village school was built. If you look carefully you should spot it too.

16 When was this old school built?

The left part of the building with the chimney was the Headmaster's house. Tups followed the Community Centre round to the left because he had always wondered what a Library was.

17 On the wall outside the Library door (which has the word “Girls” above it) he read the story called
“The Trafalgar” about the Captain of a ship who had changed horses at Overton while bringing
news of Napoleon's defeat at Trafalgar in 1805.

18 What was the name of the Captain's ship?
H M Schooner

19 Tups never did get to see inside the Library because just as he finished reading the story of the Ship's Captain changing his Post-horse in Overton for the th time (line 3), he suddenly heard the sound of a terrific bang!

Looking up he saw that a tractor pulling a trailer of hay bales had taken the corner too fast and shed its load all over the road! Not only that but the hay bales were completely blocking Kingsclere Road! "Oh bother" thought Tups. Then "Oh no!" and finally "Oh help!" And for the third time that day Tups felt rather afraid. What could he do? He didn't know how to get home any other way! He looked this way and that and began to bleat a little, but he knew he mustn't draw attention to himself or he might be sold! Just then, when he had started to shiver and tremble, he suddenly spotted something which was very familiar to him. In fact, it was the only thing that looked familiar in this street – a Shepherd's crook! Not any Shepherd's crook but **his** Shepherd's crook disappearing round the corner towards Bridge Street! With his little heart racing Tups crossed the road and began to hurry along the High Street. He had heard about the 17th Century Barber Surgeon Mr Worssum, who lived where the Bathroom Shop now is and how he could not only cut your hair but also remove lumps, bumps and even limbs with his sharp knives! Tups could smell the grass in St. Mary's garden and would have loved to nibble the flowers, but he knew he must keep going if he were to have any chance of seeing the Shepherd's crook again. On the other side of the road he could see Hobbs with its very old oak beams and fireplace inside and hurrying on, Tups passed Overton Gallery with its tiny summer house in the tea garden.

20 Further along on the other side of the road he spotted that house no 27 was built in 1871 and has the initials above the date but a few doors later by Renasci Designs he saw that no 33 is nearly 500 years old.

21 When was it built?



But then, when he reached the corner of Bridge Street, he had no idea which way to go! If he went straight on, he would come to the old toll house; going left up Red Lion Lane would bring him to the old infant school where pupils sometimes had to be taught in the porch; or going right would take him down Bridge Street towards the older part of the village. Well, he chose Bridge Street, not because he could hear the friendly ducks quacking, but because he thought he heard his name being carried on the wind. Not once, not twice but three times! "Tups? Tups? Tups?". He twitched his ears and tilted his head to one side and set off down Bridge Street.

Almost immediately he stopped in his tracks because he spotted two animals on the left side of Bridge Street which might eat a lamb given half a chance! The first was on a weathervane.

22 What animal was it?
A

Tups noticed that it already had a goose in its mouth! This animal was the name of the pub at this address. There were many pubs in Overton where men could drink but women were only allowed inside to have their jugs filled with beer – which they had to drink at home! The second was an even fiercer animal on the door knocker at no 3.

23 What was that?
A

24 Hurrying on, he noticed the very old house on the left with a thatched roof and on the door plaque of No 30 he saw a friendly looking teddy

When he trip-trapped over the bridge he was relieved that there were no trolls underneath, only trout!

25 At the ORC on the right he noticed an advert for the Walking for Health group. What are the second and third digits of their phone number (in the area code)?

26 Finally he came to the last house on the left where medieval pottery has been found in the garden. What is the name of this 18th Century house? The Old

Tups was now entering the older part of the village which in the 13th Century consisted of just the church and Court Farm House opposite. As its name suggests this was where the Court was held. When the Bishop of Winchester stayed here in 1306, he was presented with two peacocks! Sadly they were probably eaten as they were a delicacy for the rich in those days. Jane Austen's brother, James, also lived at Court Farm House when he was a curate at St. Mary's. Just then he heard a comforting sound. Not the Shepherd's voice this time but the Shepherd's pipe! And the familiar tune seemed to be wafting on the breeze from the hill by the church.

27 Trotting happily along the pavement towards the church he spotted another weathervane on the left, this time of a engine.

Then he carefully crossed the road by the first gate to the church and made his way up the path on the left.

At the top Tups was glad to see a puddle beneath the garden tap, and he knelt down to drink. Here, from the top of the hill, he could see pink and orange clouds in the sky and the first of the evening stars beginning to twinkle. But in St. Mary's churchyard there were earth-born stars twinkling in the grass! All around him little bright green lights glimmered and flashed, twisting and turning like fairy lamplights! What on earth were they? It was a fascinating sight and for a moment Tups lost himself in the lovely show and almost forgot that he himself was actually lost! When he came to, he wasn't sure which way to go. He could no longer hear the shepherd's pipe, but he continued along the path by the fence away from the road and quite suddenly, on the left, he came to a little secret garden.

As he entered the garden, he could just make out, in the fading light, a stone plaque with these words: "All your works, Lord, echo the silent music of your praise".

28 What date is on the bottom of the plaque?

Following the path round past the benches he spotted another interesting object. It was too late now to see the time on this sundial because the sun and the shadows had gone to bed, but you should be able to make out the name of a flower which spoke of the coming day.

29 What is it?
Morning

Lastly, he saw a creature made out of stones.

30 What is it?
A

And then he remembered Ivor telling him a story about this ancient Christian symbol. In Greek the word for fish is "Ichthus" and the early Christians used the sign of a fish as a secret symbol because in Greek the letters of Ichthus are the first letters of the words: "Jesus Christ of God, Son, Saviour". Now he had seen the sign for himself! But only just, for it was now almost dark.

As he left the garden, he still had to choose which way to go – right, towards the road or left through the churchyard



towards the fields, but just then the darkness was suddenly scattered by coloured lights coming from the church windows! Walking back to where the tap was, he looked up at the church and saw a stained-glass window showing a Shepherd holding a crook in his hand. The Shepherd also seemed to be carrying something else but Tups wasn't sure what it was.

It was now beginning to rain and Tups couldn't think of a better place to shelter than the church.

31 He passed a wooden bench with the words "I am the sunlight on ripened _____" carved on the front and on the outer door of the church Tups could make out several birds etched on the glass.

32 How many birds are there on the glass doors?

Don't miss the swallows at the top! The next door was completely different. Thankfully it was open because it is made of very heavy oak and is around 500 years old! This folding door with its hinge in the middle is very unusual and is like the door of the Temple in Ezekiel's vision in the Bible. Inside the church it was warm and dry but Tups really wanted to go home. He was feeling very tired after his great adventure and rather homesick.

33 Inside, by the folding wooden door he could see a lovely wall-hanging made by the children of _____ Primary School in 2008.

34 What does the banner say the Lord is?
My _____

It reminded him of his own Meadow because there were flowers all around and sheep grazing in the field.

35 How many sheep are there in the picture?

36 And what time does the church clock show in the picture?
.00 p.m.

As he looked around a little more, he suddenly spotted the same stained-glass window he had seen from the outside, but now he could see what else the Shepherd was holding.

37 It was a _____ !

Gazing up at the window Tups imagined what it would be like to be back in the Shepherd's arms – safe and enfolded, and just then the most amazing thing happened. Around his back he felt strong hands lifting him up and he found himself being placed on someone's chest! It was Ivor! Ivor had found him!

Tups couldn't believe the feeling of joy at being held tightly again – not by someone who was intent on selling him but by Ivor who had

always watched over him. He bleated with delight and nuzzled up to Ivor's neck. Ivor gently placed Tups round his shoulders and took him out into the churchyard.

On their way back to Little Meadow their path was lit by the little green beacons and Tups asked Ivor if he knew the secret of the lamplights. "I do" said Ivor.

"They are glow-worms! And I'll tell you another secret. They're not worms at all! They're beetles!"

When they arrived at Little Meadow Ivor opened the gate and placed Tups on the grass. It was now quite dark but Tups knew that he was home.

What he didn't yet know was that Ivor was planning a party to celebrate his return!



