The Plants of Dinton Churchyard

A survey of the plants in Dinton churchyard was conducted in July 2012. Over 100 types of plants (including trees) were identified. Although none of these are rare, the large number of species is significant. No herbicides are used in the churchyard, except on the cobbled path, thus allowing many plants to grow successfully that will not be found in the nearby fields. The wide variety of plants should result in a wide variety of insects, since certain insects are only to be found on specific plants. In turn, the insects are food for birds and bats. So, the regime of using no herbicides, together with the relatively infrequent mowing of grass (monthly is the norm) has resulted in an environment closely in harmony with nature.

There are too many plants for all to be mentioned, but here are a selected few:

- Four types of cranesbill (geranium)

- Three types of plantain

- Three types of speedwell (veronica)

Plants with interesting “familiar” names include:

- Bird’s foot trefoil (bacon and eggs)

- Lady’s bedstraw

- Lesser burdock (bachelors buttons)

- Common mallow (Billy buttons)

- Common mouse-ear

Also worthy of note are:

- Woody nightshade (bittersweet)

- Stinking iris

- Greater celandine (not a relative of lesser celandine)

The survey in July would not identify many spring flowers – snowdrops, daffodils, aconites, primroses and cowslips.

If any readers are interested in wildflowers, Dinton churchyard is clearly a good location to see them.

Rare Bee Orchid found in Dinton Parish Field 2013