

## Ann Boleyn in Ewelme

Dec 2013-Jan 2014

As there is a current media fascination with all things Tudor we were glad to add previously unknown information to the Village History file that Anne Boleyn stayed in Ewelme on three occasions. (The only documented visit by a Queen of Henry VIII we knew of was of Anne's equally ill-fated successor, Katherine Howard in 1540 - whilst on their honeymoon).

Sarah Morris and her co-author Natalie Grueninger have recently published a book - *'In the Footsteps of Anne Boleyn'*, described as a 'visitor's companion to places and artefacts associated with one of England's most controversial and iconic queens.' The book states Anne visited twice before her marriage in 1533 and once as Queen. Sarah contacted the Archive last year for information on Ewelme Palace and we arranged a meeting on the day of the Village Fete in May, being the only day in the year we could access the Manor grounds. She was delighted to actually walk on the site of the former Palace and have her photograph taken against the brick buttresses at the western end, being the only surviving external fragments of the original accommodation range building.



**Anne Boleyn and King Henry VIII**

Ewelme Palace was forfeited to the Crown in 1502, and being more comfortable than Wallingford Castle, it became a favoured Tudor residence and hunting park. Before their marriage in 1533 Lady Anne was in King Henry VIII's retinue on the summer progress to Woodstock which stopped at the Palace on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1531. They stayed again on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1532 when returning to Windsor at the end of the summer progress. In 1535, on the progress that year, the King and Queen Anne visited the property on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July, en-route between Reading and Abingdon Abbey's.