

THE ROYAL CHARTER

On August 13th 1269, the Lord of the Manor, Roger de Scures, was granted a Royal Charter by King Henry III to hold a weekly market every Thursday and to hold a Fair on the anniversary of the Translation Of St. Nicholas, the removal of the Saint's relics from Turkey to Italy, (now 20 May), every year "for ever", – the Charter is still valid and Wickham Fair is still held annually on that day.

THE CHARTER OF HENRY III

For Roger de Scures. The King to Archbishops &c. Greetings.

Know ye that we have granted and by this our charter have confirmed to Roger de Scures that he and his heirs may have free warren in all the demesne lands of his manor of Wykham in the county of Southampton for ever. So that those lands be not within the boundaries of our forest. On condition that no one shall enter those lands to hunt in them or take away anything that may belong to the warren without the leave and will of the said Roger or his heirs upon forfeiture of ten pound. We have also granted to the same Roger that he and his heirs shall have for ever a market at his manor aforesaid every week on Thursday and that they may have there a fair ever year for three days, that is to say on the vigil, day and morrow of the Translation of St Nicholas unless that market and fair may be to the damage of the neighbouring market and fairs.

Wherefore we will and firmly ordain for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Roger and his heirs for ever may have free warren in all the demesne lands of his manor aforesaid. So that those lands be not within the boundaries of our forest. On condition that none enter those lands to hunt in them or take anything that may belong to the warren without the leave and will of the same Roger or his heirs upon forfeiture of ten pounds. And that he and his heirs for ever may have a market at his manor aforesaid every week on Thursday and a fair there every year for three days that is to say on the vigil, day and morrow of the Translation of St Nicholas with all liberties and free customs to such market and fair belonging. Unless that Market and fair be to the damage of the neighbouring markets and fairs aforesaid.

Given by our hand at Winchester on the 13th day of August in the year etc.