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# **ASPECTS OF CHILHAM**

## **THE MARYMAS FAIR**

In 1293 when Chilham Castle was held by Alexander Baliol, Lord High Constable of Scotland under his brother King John Baliol and King Edward I of England, authority was granted by King Edward for a 3 day fair to be held annually at Chilham on 15<sup>th</sup> August (and the days immediately preceding & following – aka the eve & the morrow) the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, to whom the parish church is dedicated.

From this time also, a market was also permitted in the Square every week on Tuesday.

In subsequent years the right was granted for a Fair on November 8<sup>th</sup>; this continued long after the Marymas fair died out

This tradition, confirmed by subsequent monarchs, was continued until about 200 years ago, by which time perhaps the turnpike road system was making it easier to travel to the market towns of Canterbury & Ashford, beginning the progressive weakening of commercial activity in the countryside which continues to this day.

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