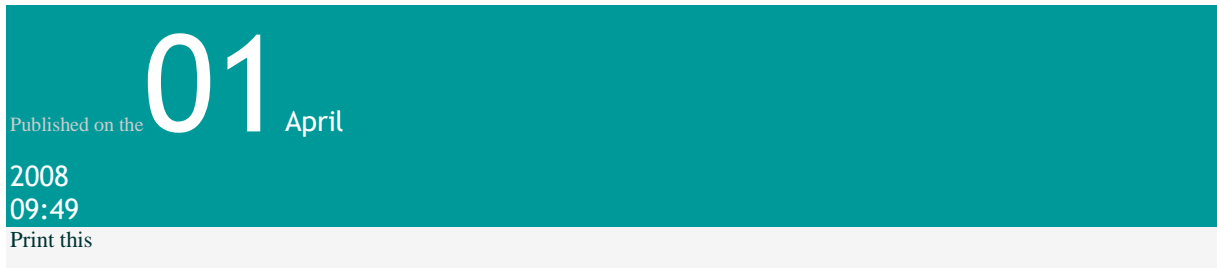


# Portrait of Balderson of Boxmoor



## **Dacorum Museum is piecing together the lives of a well-known 19th Century Hemel Hempstead family.**

Henry Balderson was a notable figure in the town, dealing in a wide range of materials from coal to corn, as well as imported wines and spirits.

From 1864, he managed Boxmoor Wharf, the central coal wharf in Hemel Hempstead.

Mr Balderson was a tanner, coal, corn, stone and timber merchant and also imported wines and spirits, especially port and his Olde Stone Jar Whiskey.

He died in 1908, aged 77, having been the High Bailiff and Mayor, a director of both the Gas and Water Companies, a member of the Highway and Burial Boards and a Churchwarden of St John's.

As mayor, Mr Balderson had read the Proclamation of Edward VII as King, on Hemel Hempstead High Street, in January 1901 (pictured above).

The Gazette reported that 'so dense was the crowd that not even a dog could penetrate the forest of legs'.

It also said: "The Mayor coughed uneasily, began to unroll the precious document, found it split in twain.

"He blushed and looked round appealingly. Aldermen Gray and Dowling came to the rescue and assisting by holding the bottom corners, the Mayor cleared his throat and proceeded to read in a voice which only one-fifth of the crowd could hear."

The Friends of Dacorum Museum recently funded the purchase of a large glass Balderson's Brandy dispenser to add to stoneware flagons, trade bills and photographs that are helping to build a picture of the Balderson family.

Dacorum Heritage Trust runs monthly tours of its collections - book

a place at [www.dacorumheritage.org.uk](http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk) or call 01442 879525.