



A GOLDMINE of information on Dacorum's least well known railway station has been provided to Heritage as a result of our feature on the history of local railways, October 25, 2000.

In that feature we mentioned Marston Gate station in Long Marston on the Cheddington to

Aylesbury branch line and asked for more information.

Reader Peter Croston did just that and lent us a copy of a book which is devoted to the Cheddington to Aylesbury branch line, which was the very first branch line.

The book - The Aylesbury Railway - was

written by Bill Simpson and published by the Oxford Publishing Co in 1989 and it's well worth trying to get hold of a copy if you're a local historian.

The Cheddington to Aylesbury line opened in June 1839, but Bill's book tells us that Marston Gate station didn't begin to make an appearance until about 1860 when the gateman at the crossing was reprimanded for allowing his gates to be "run through".

It would seem that at first there was just some sort of platform there, but in 1864 agreement was given to the building of a booking office and stationmaster's house at a cost of £283.

It was only a small station and had as its staff a stationmaster and two porter/signalmen who operated alternate eight hour shifts six days a week.

Coal, milk and cattle were the main goods handled at the station, but Bill says that supplies of chaff brought from the Aylesbury Brewery as a by-product to feed cattle were also a common sight.

The station being somewhat remote also had a taxi, or wagonette service.

The line closed to passenger traffic in 1953, although goods trains carried on using the line for some time.



■ End of the line, above a tank engine and two coaches wait at Cheddington for the return trip to Aylesbury and, top, Marston Gate station. Both pictures are taken from the book *The Aylesbury Railway* by Bill Simpson.

THE 3Cs community group may be long gone, but it's certainly not forgotten.

As featured in two of our editions in October, the 3Cs was a community group of residents from Cedar Walk, Corner Hall Avenue and Crabtree Close and really resulted from the VE and VJ Day street parties at the end of the Second World War.

Janet Gray, who now lives in Tring, has written to tell us her happy memories of the group.

She was born and lived in Corner Hall Avenue for 20 years.

She remembers there were various family events for everyone, including sports on the

moor, street parties and Mr Griffiths from Cedar Walk was a former chairman of the group and ran voluntary dance classes for senior and junior members of the 3Cs at Boxmoor Hall.

Janet tells us a junior section was formed with its own committee and she wonders where those people are now.

Names she remembers include: From Cedar Walk - Tanis Evans, Ronald Hunt. Corner Hall Avenue - Wendy Neale, Jimmy Lines. Crabtree Lane - Hazel Attwood.

Adds Janet: "Many happy memories of those days and now all the juniors are pensioners!"

■ MISS Ralphs, a Heritage reader,

has asked if we can give an "update" on the pianist Philip Martin who married local singer Penny Price-Jones.

This was all 40 or 50 years ago and our reader says that Penny became a professional singer and was the daughter of John Price-Jones a well-known amateur singer locally.

She says many people will remember the Price-Jones family and their contribution to the music scene many years ago. If any readers can help us update the story, please do write to Heritage, The Gazette, 39 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1LH.