

During the second world war, when members of the Forces and, later, members of the American forces were stationed nearabouts, the ballroom was, occasionally, allowed to revert to its prime purpose and the experience of dancing on its superbly sprung floor was one many of the dancers had never before enjoyed, especially the jitterbug experts amongst the GIs who, eventually, had to be asked to moderate their artistry as it was proving to be a bit too much for the floor. After 'D Day' the ballroom and its ante-rooms were made available as a convalescent annex to the Caernarfonshire & Anglesey Infirmary. But the most memorable event to occur in the ballroom, in the later days, at Gorddino was, in 1945, when it was 'borrowed' by the estate, household and farm staffs to give Eric and Florence Platt a party on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.

The second world war brought many enforced changes and upheavals to the estate at Gorddino, far greater than any which had occurred in the first world war. Chief amongst the changes was the mandatory increase in the use of the Madryn land for arable farming which led Eric Platt, when the opportunity arose, to buy Henfaes Farm, which bordered Madryn on the west, to restore lost pasture and lessen the crowding of the stock. The acquisition of Henfaes meant the Platt lands on the north side of the original Turnpike road – by then numbered A55 – came to have extended, though not at the one time, all the way between the Llanfairfechan and Aber rivers. To increase the milk yield, a small herd of Friesian cattle was introduced alongside the Welsh Blacks. The woodland behind the House had to be felled to meet the ever growing demand for timber, although the exotic trees, now well matured, were exempt. In turn, the saw bench at Madryn, had to be upgraded and the Crossley engine had to be replaced with a more powerful model. Additional farm tractors and other implements had to be obtained to cope with the increased harvests. The larger harvests also caused serious wear and tear to the Main Drive as it had to be used, as a short cut, by the farm wagons to make their more numerous journeys quicker to the stackyard at Madryn. In the grounds of the House, poultry was kept on certain of the lawns. The demand for scrap metal caused the cutting down of a considerable quantity of the cast iron ornamental railings and chains around the Grounds, much of which had been originally brought amongst the supplies from Oldham.

At the war's end, work was put in hand to restore the estate, where it was considered desirable and practical, to pre-war conditions. Moreover much of the routine maintenance had had to be shelved, during the war, for want of men or materials, and now called for desperate attention. The ballroom needed to be refurbished after its stint as a hospital ward. The first fruits of the work were beginning to show when, on the

13 October 1946, Eric Platt died suddenly one month short of his seventy-fifth birthday (A strange coincidence, he died on the same day of the same month as his father). His funeral arrangements consisted of a service at the House, for the members of the Family, before the cortege, in which the coffin was carried on a farm wagon, drawn by Madryn's most splendid black shirehorse, proceeded to the church at Abergwyngregyn for Eric Platt's interment in the family vault. The services were taken, in part, by the Dean of Bangor, the Archdeacon of Bangor, the Rector of Abergwyngregyn and the Rector and curate of Llanfairfechan. At the church were present the Lord Lieutenant of Caernarfonshire and a wide representation of county people, the estate, household and farm staffs, local people from all walks of life and members of the business communities with which Eric Platt had been associated – Platt Brothers and the Hartford Trust were represented by his cousin, Sir Alan Sykes, Bart. It was a fitting tribute, not only to Eric James Walter Platt personally, but to the last in the line of a family John Platt had established as important and well respected country squires in North Wales.

The absence of a direct heir to Eric Platt not only meant there was not to be a fourth generation Platt as the squire in Llanfairfechan and Abergwyngregyn but his estate was divided between his daughter and his nephew. To his daughter, Eneid Langdon, he left his personal estate but the real estate, which was entailed in the male line descending from Colonel Henry Platt (it will be remembered John Platt had conveyed the Gorddino estate to Henry Platt) passed to Ronald Douglas King the younger son of Eric Platt's younger sister, Gladys. The elder son – Henry Mairland King – had been killed whilst serving with the Royal Air Force, during the second world war, and had been buried in the family vault at Aber. The Death Duties, levied by the Labour Government then in power, were at the horrific level of eighty per cent and the necessary devastating proportion of Eric Platt's assets, in which was included Plas Llechlyched, had to be sold to discharge these. To enable Florence Platt to remain at Gorddino, for the rest of her life, the key enforced option the beneficiaries had to accept was that in order to save Gorddino, and the income from Madryn Farm and the rest of the estate by which it would be sustained, the shares in Platt Brothers & Company (Holdings) Limited, the other prized asset, had to be sacrificed. Florence Platt died in 1955 and no time was lost in offering Gorddino for sale. The sale was to exclude, pro temp, some odd properties and a small piece of land, adjacent to East Lodge, which had been given over to Eneid Langdon. On the piece of land, Eneid Langdon, whose usual home was in London, built a house, of modest size, to serve as a last link with Llanfairfechan. The disposal of Henfaes Farm was delayed, for some years, as Eric