

THE SLATE BRIDGE AT EGLWYSBACH

Since time immemorial, the residents of Eglwysbach, their visitors and friends have enjoyed strolling down from the Blacksmith's to the Hiraethlyn river.

Until Boxing Day 2015 that is.



At lunchtime, the bridge slid into the river.

Its foundations were weakened by the fast flowing water.

The Community Council had asked a County Council officer to make a site visit to look at erosion of the banks supporting the bridge. This site visit took place on 22 December.

Unfortunately the high water level meant that it was impossible to see exactly what was going on.

On Boxing Day the slate bridge disappeared.

Immediately, a number of residents in the village were very concerned that the railings of the bridge, which were just beneath the surface of the water, might snag branches and debris as they came down the river. This could have led to blockages in the flow and



flooding up behind.

This fear was heightened by threats of an imminent storm, EVA, forecast to arrive in 2 days time.

Steve Dolan (Eglwysbach Assistant Flood Warden) managed to contact the right people at the Council, even though it was a holiday.

There was one frustrated attempt by their



contractors to reach the river on the morning of 29 December, and finally, at about 3 o'clock, a great yellow JCB lumbered down Ffordd Bryn Hir from Ty Gwyn.



As the afternoon darkened, the contractors worked with great energy to secure the bridge to the JCB.

At times 2 men were thigh high in swirling foaming water; a little group of villagers gathered on the banks, at a safe distance, to watch the events.

Finally, and with spotlights on as the dusk was falling, the bridge was hauled from the river bed, intact, and laid to rest on the bank.

Thanks to the Flood Wardens:-

Cllr Katherine Himsworth 650026

Assistant Flood Warden Steve Dolan
650959

