

58/68.FLOOD HAVOC IN WEST COUNTRY.

Lynmouth is blessing the new bridges and river channels built after the floods which devastated it a few years ago. They make it feel a lot more secure in this storm-drenched August, which has seen more goosepimples than sunburn. Shepherders make up on the roundabouts what they lose on the swings; if buckets and bilkins are a dead loss, plastic macs are selling like hot cakes as the clouds grow thicker.

Ten miles away, the village of Coombe Martin is clearing up the wreckage of a flood which swept down the main street, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage in a few hours. Holidaymakers help villagers to sort out the mess.

But if holidays are all washed up, it's even worse for the farmers. They're praying for a few days of sun, too - which might still save what should have been a bumper crop. But if the weather goes on like this, the grain will either sprout or rot on the ground and a valuable harvest will be lost.