

Ottery St Mary

Local Pharmacy

A hard rain fell...

Ottery St Mary, birthplace of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, hit the national news on the 30th October 2008 after a freak hailstorm hit the town just after midnight. Drifts of hailstones up to 6ft high caused havoc, blocking drains and causing substantial flash flooding.

In the High Street, the local branch of Boots the Chemist was safe and secure as they had got into the habit of putting their Floodgates in place every night when they closed up. They have been doing this for nearly two years and their efforts were rewarded when they got to work the following morning to find that, unlike many businesses in the high street, they had been spared the cost and disruption of flooding.

When asked for a comment, Helen Hansford, the manager, said "What can I say, Floodgates are brilliant - they do exactly what they're supposed to. I came out to check in the middle of the storm and despite the flood water reaching to within inches of the top of the gates, we were safe. Some neighbouring businesses still haven't been able to put carpets down three months on from the flooding - Thank you Floodgate."

