

Tom's shop and back yard by Peter Clarke

This photo of an area in Mill Lane, near the corner with the High Street, called Tom's yard is probably dated about 1960



The building on the corner of Mill Lane and High Street was later occupied by Barclay's Bank which is now also long gone.

Ken Branigan remembers how the site was used, *"There were 3 garages in there. I had one, Harry Calclough another, and Percy Mumford the 3rd. I can still remember John Toms coming out in his brown shop smock to collect the weekly rent – 2/6d!"*

Well 2/6d – under 17p in today's money – may be cheap, but at least people did *use* garages in those days for their cars! I find equally interesting the air raid shelter on the left of the picture. I wonder how many remain in Benson today? The most visible can be seen in the open garden at the west end of the Littleworth Path. This is well worth a look at before someone destroys it. In fact perhaps there ought to be a preservation order on the few remaining, rather like Martello towers in Kent.