The Archive

The digital Archive was finally completed after sterling work by the dedicated Archive team over a lengthy period of time culminating in Ian's vital professional IT work on the considerable task of digitisation. Grateful thanks to all who contributed so unstintingly to this valuable record of the Mills heritage.
The Archive is one of the three key elements on the cover of the Millls website.

At end December 2025 following completion responsibility for administration of the digital Archive passed from Ian to the Mills IT staff.

At this point it was understood that access to the Archive room and any work on the Archive would be restricted to Mills staff. How this arrangement would work was uncertain. In view of this the opportunity was taken to see whether there were any aspects which could be dealt with before handover.

Firstly as access to recent issues of Touchpaper is for reasons of confidentiality restricted to Friends who subscribe to Touchpaper this means that access is denied to general non friends browsers who might have had an interest in a particular Touchpaper historical article had they been aware of it, and this applies to Touchpaper in general. This is a universal problem. A Newcomen journal editorial pointed out the large amount of 'buried material' e.g. denied to non-subscribers to societies etc., unpublished PhD dissertations etc.

Secondly in the main WASC series there might be a group of generalised browsers who had a general interest in a particular historical subject but not necessarily to the extent of wanting to plough through single entries but who might be tempted by a shorter summary of the subject, cross referenced to the single entries

A quick survey was made of relevant articles, which were then listed and given a separate WASC number and the title Archive Information Summary. The list was recorded in an Archive shadow series, detailed below. In the case of Touchpaper only articles of non-confidential historical interest were listed.

The Summaries were:

WASC	Archive Information	Subject
2443	1	Tetryl comments
2442	2	The Wrights
2446	3	German Rocket Scientists
	4	Awaiting completion
2449	5	New hill NG Factory

2450	6	RGM AA Defences
2451	7	John Smeaton
2452	8	Explosives Legislation
2453	9	South Site Evolution
2544	10	Smokeless Powders
2455	11	Explosive Acts
2469	12	Siemens Fire Alarm system
2470	13	Siemens Morse Recorder

WAROC

Entries developed and some earlier entries were subject to augmentation and change.
Elements affected included the Early Rocketry series, which spanned WAROC 19-23.

Since the above was written information has been received from Ian indicating that access to the Archive room and its facilities will in fact be possible in the future. In which case Archive work such as Richard's production of WATI input for Touchpaper digitisation will continue. If the shadow series is later found unnecessary it will be discontinued

In the meantime, I have competed the brand designer survey form regarding the Mills long term plan In the answers I have endeavoured to bring the Archive to the staff's attention in the hope they will find it useful for historical background.

Les Tucker