

Stevens, Pauline, *Ebley, Stroud - Cider Factories, Inns, Laundries, an Orphanage and an Anglo-French Ladies' College*, Stroud Local History Society, 2025, £12

Booze, bricks, books and more – a review by Will Foster, February 2025

Pauline Stevens's latest volume of local history provides an easily read account of the major businesses in Ebley (near Stroud) from the early 19th Century to bringing the stories up to date. The meticulous research is supported by very many photographs of the buildings with carefully annotated maps to identify the locations.

The book, published by Stroud Local History Society, vividly describes the local entrepreneurs, their lives, successes ...and disasters! Pauline has researched local newspaper archives, canal archives, census records, ancestry sites as well as old maps and land tax surveys. The many illustrations mostly come from local picture archives with supporting modern photographs by the author.

"Stroudies" and local history enthusiasts alike will enjoy the interesting account of over 15 businesses, with some surprising facts unearthed by Pauline. From cider makers and pubs, to laundries, schools and local worthies, this book tells their stories in fascinating detail.

Available as an e-book from www.lulu.com and in print from Stroud bookshops – see website for details www.stroudlocalhistorysociety.org.uk

Ebley's cider factories, inns, laundries, an orphanage and an Anglo-French Ladies' College

Ebley village, on the old road between Cairns Cross and Stonehouse, has been part of Cairns Cross Parish since 1894. Ebley Mill and the Snow Mill have new uses and a lot more has changed since Ebley was my home.

I have discovered long-forgotten stories of some of the families and their businesses in Ebley, while old photographs, adverts and maps give us a view into the past.

There used to be six inns at Ebley. The Bell, Clothiers Arms, Lamb and Malakoff inns closed long ago, the Coach and Horses recently, so the only one remaining open is the Old Crown. Some were run by several generations of the same family and the innkeepers often had another trade; their stories are told here.



Robbins Close, off Devereaux Crescent, takes its name from a family's cider factory, but Harper's cider factory in Bridge Road has lost its name to Dolphin Mundy, the last business there.

The high-class Stroud Sanitary Laundry was in an old Ebley Mill building until it moved into the empty Harper cider factory.

Ebley Court was built for the clothier running Ebley Mill, but for a while it housed the Kimmins family's very successful Anglo-French School; an ornamental tree in its grounds has given Monkey Puzzle Close its name.

This generously-illustrated book also tells the story of Ebley House and how it became an orphanage, of Ebley Saw Mills, and of families who lived in the Crossley, Gladstone and Richmond Buildings and at The Barracks.

£12

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