



Table: Combe Martin
Historical Themes and
Events

Combe Martin Theme / Category	Event / Detail	Date / Period	Source / Citation	Educational Notes	Archival Tags
Agriculture	Strawberry exports to Wales; jam production	WWI-1960s	Agricultural Heritage	Loamy soil; Clyde Puffer 'SS Snowflake' transport	Horticulture, WWI Era, Local Economy
Architecture	Church of St Peter ad Vincula; Pack o' Cards Inn	13 th century; c.1690	Architectural Heritage	Grade II* listed; Ley family legacy	Religious Heritage, Listed Sites
Author R.D. Blackmore 1825 – 1900	Family connections to Combe Martin & Churchyard	19 th - 20 th centuries	Blackmore Country	The Blackmore Country in Somerset and North Devon	Literature, Cultural Geography
Combe Martin Museum & Outreach	Combe Martin Museum and Information Point	Present	Museum Overview	Accessible exhibits; supports events, outreach and education	Museum, Outreach, Community
Cultural Figures	Marie Corelli, Terry-Thomas, J.M.W. Turner	19th-20th century	Famous People	Literary and artistic heritage	Biography, Arts, Literary Heritage
Educational Infrastructure	Ley Free School; Ley Educational Charity	1700s-present	Pack o' Cards Inn History	Squire George Ley's legacy; community education	Education, Philanthropy, Local Governance
Folklore & Festivals	Earl of Rone Festival; Guinness world record street party	Annual (May); June 2002	Festival Overview	Unique to Combe Martin; boosts tourism and heritage pride	Folklore, Tourism, Cultural Heritage

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Geological Significance	Devonian-period formations; silver-lead, copper, iron, zinc	419-359 million years ago	Geology Section	SSSI designation; shaped industrial history	Geology, Mining, Scientific Interest
Great Exhibition at London	Combe Martin silver showcased by Ellis & Son - Exeter Silversmiths	1851	Silver Legacy	Jewel-casket and knitting basket in silver	Decorative Arts, Industrial Exhibition
Industrial Transition	Shift from mining to horticulture and tourism	1880s onward	Economic History	Post-mining resilience; tourism & hospitality.	Economic Change, Local Industry
Literary Legacy & Connections	<i>Lorna Doone</i> set on Exmoor; <i>The Mighty Atom</i> set in Combe Martin	19 th century	Literary Heritage	Fictional settings rooted in real geography	Literature, Cultural Geography
Local Mining & Geology	Silver mining under Edward I; declined by 1870s	13th-19th century	Magna Britannia (1822)	Royal chartered mines; economic significance	Medieval Mining, Royal Economy
Manor System Decline	Combe Martin Manor sold by Sir John Pollard to tenants	16th century	Feudal History	End of feudal lordship; rise of individual ownership	Feudalism, Land Reform, Tudor England
Maritime & Trade	Schooners built by Dovell & Partridge on the River Umer	1837-1843	Industrial History	Steam saw mills and shipyard; tidal launch techniques	Maritime Industry, Industrial Revolution
Market Gardening	Mixed soft-fruit production (raspberries, gooseberries, currants) alongside strawberries	Late 19th century-1950s	Agricultural Heritage	Small plots and allotments along Combe Martin Vale; sheltered microclimate	Horticulture
Market Gardening	Combe Martin supplied Ilfracombe hotels and holiday trade with fresh produce	Victorian Era	Agricultural Heritage	Rise of Ilfracombe as a resort; daily cart deliveries	Hospitality Trade, Local Food Networks

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Prehistory Saxons & Vikings	Roman mining indications; Battle of Cynwit possibly Countisbury	AD 50-878	Anglo-Saxon History	Strategic defence; Viking raids; Roman silver	Roman Britain, Viking Raids, Military History
Smuggling History	Local illicit trade during the 'Golden Age of Smuggling'	18th-19th century	Smuggling History	Coastal geography enabled contraband routes	Maritime Crime, Customs History
Transition from silver mining to horticulture as main livelihood	Combe Martin Industrial Transition & Agricultural Heritage	Post-mine closure c. 1880 - early 20th century	Agricultural Heritage	Intergenerational skills; community co-operation during harvest	Industrial Transition



Colophon

Combe Martin Historical Archive Compiled: September 2025

From: Combe Martin Village History Project (CMVHP) - www.combemartinvillage.co.uk.

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