

## Table: Combe Martin History Overview

### Historical Themes and Events

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Combe Martin Theme / Category	Event / Detail	Date / Period	Source / Citation	Educational Notes	Tags
Early Settlement	Saxon farming hamlet; land held by Brictric, Edwy, pre-Conquest. Transferred to William de Falaise post and Martin de Tours -1066	Anglo-Saxon era - Norman Conquest of 1066	<a href="#">Open Domesday – Combe [Martin]</a>	Domesday Book records Combe Martin as a small manor; reflects shift from Saxon to Norman control	Wool; Feudal Transition & Landholding Heritage
Agriculture	Strawberry fields. Strawberry exports to Wales; Local Jam Factory	1800s-WWI-1960s	<a href="#">Agricultural Heritage</a>	Loamy soil; Clyde Puffer 'SS Snowflake' transport	Horticulture, WWI Era, Local Economy
Architecture	Church of St Peter ad Vincula; Pack o' Cards Inn	13 <sup>th</sup> century; c.1690	<a href="#">Architectural Heritage</a>	Grade II* listed; Ley family legacy	Religious Heritage, Listed Sites
Author R.D. Blackmore 1825 – 1900	Family connections to Combe Martin & Churchyard	19 <sup>th</sup> –20 <sup>th</sup> centuries	<a href="#">Blackmore Country</a>	The Blackmore Country in Somerset and North Devon	Literature, Cultural Geography
Combe Martin Museum & Outreach	Combe Martin Museum and Information Point	Present	<a href="#">Museum Overview</a>	Accessible exhibits; supports events, schools and education	Museum, Outreach, Community
Cultural Figures	Marie Corelli, Terry-Thomas, J.M.W. Turner	19th-20th century	<a href="#">Famous People</a>	Literary and artistic heritage	Biography, Arts, Literary Heritage

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	Damien Hirst				
Hemp and Retting and Fulling	Medieval Monastic Millers through to Elizabethan era	12th Century -16th Century	<a href="#">Local Hemp</a>	Combe Martin was a prolific producer of hemp	Industrial history
Educational History & Infrastructure	Founding of Combe Martin Free School by George Ley	Early 1700s-present	<a href="#">Pack o' Cards Inn History</a>	Squire George Ley's legacy; community education	Education and Charity
Folklore & Festivals	Earl of Rone Festival; Guinness world record street party	Annual (May); June 2002	<a href="#">Festival Overview</a>	Unique to Combe Martin; boosts tourism and heritage pride	Folklore, Tourism, Cultural Heritage
Geological Significance	Devonian-period formations; silver-lead, copper, iron, zinc	419-359 million years ago	<a href="#">Geology Section</a>	SSSI designation; shaped industrial history	Geology, Mining, Scientific Interest
Great Exhibition at London	Combe Martin silver showcased by Ellis & Son—Exeter Silversmiths	1851	<a href="#">Silver Legacy</a>	Jewel-casket and knitting basket in silver	Decorative Arts, Industrial Exhibition
Industrial Transition	Shift from silver mining to horticulture and tourism	1880s onward	<a href="#">Economic History</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> century	<a href="#">Literary Heritage</a>	Fictional settings rooted in real geography	Literature, Cultural Geography
Combe Martin Mining & Geology	Silver mining under Edward I; large scale mining in decline by 1870s	13th-19th century	<a href="#">Magna Britannia (1822)</a>	Royal chartered mines; economic significance	Medieval Mining, Royal Economy
Manor System Decline	Combe Martin Manor sold by Sir John Pollard to tenants	16th century	<a href="#">Feudal History</a>	End of feudal lordship; rise of individual ownership	Feudalism, Land Reform, Tudor England

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<b>Maritime &amp; Trade</b>	Schooners built by Dovell & Partridge on the River Uمبر	1837-1843	<a href="#">Industrial History</a>	Steam saw mills and shipyard; tidal launch techniques	Maritime Industry, Industrial Revolution
<b>West Challacombe Manor</b>	Fortified medieval manor with false hammer-beam roof; owned by Prouse & Orchard	14th-15th century onward	<a href="#">West Challacombe Manor / Combe Martin Landmarks   Combe Martin Village</a>	Grade II* listed; dendrochronology dates roof to 1449-1474	Architectural & Feudal Heritage
<b>Farming</b> <b>Market Gardening</b>	Vegetables & flowers. Mixed soft-fruit production (raspberries, gooseberries, currants) alongside strawberries	Mid 19th century-1960s		Small plots and allotments along Combe Martin Vale; sheltered microclimate	Horticulture
<b>Market Gardening</b>	Combe Martin supplied Ilfracombe hotels and holiday trade with fresh produce	Victorian Era	<a href="#">Agricultural Heritage</a>	Rise of Ilfracombe as a resort; daily cart deliveries from Combe Martin	Hospitality Trade, Local Food Networks
<b>Prehistory Saxons &amp; Vikings</b>	Roman mining indications locally; Battle of Cynwit possibly Countisbury	AD 50-878	<a href="#">Anglo-Saxon History</a> <a href="#">Battle of Cynwit</a>	Strategic defence; Viking raids; Possible Roman silver mining on the area	Roman Britain, Viking Raids, Military History
<b>Smuggling History</b>	Local illicit trade during the 'Golden Age of Smuggling'	18th-19th century	<a href="#">Smuggling History</a>	Coastal geography enabled contraband routes	Maritime Crime, Customs History
<b>Transition from silver mining to horticulture as main livelihood</b>	Combe Martin Industrial Transition & Agricultural Heritage	Post-mine closure c. 1880-early 20th century	<a href="#">Agricultural Heritage</a>	Intergenerational skills; community co-operation during harvest	Industrial Transition

## Colophon

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