



Table: Combe Martin
Historical Themes and
Events

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-1066	Anglo-Saxon era - Norman Conquest of 1066	Open Domesday – Combe [Martin]	Domesday Book records Combe Martin as a small manor; reflects shift from Saxon to Norman control	Feudal Transition & Landholding Heritage
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, Philanthropy, Local

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				education	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
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
Combe Martin Mining & Geology	Silver mining under Edward I; large scale mining in decline 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 Umber	1837-1843	Industrial History	Steam saw mills and shipyard; tidal launch techniques	Maritime Industry, Industrial Revolution
West Challacombe Manor	Fortified medieval manor with false hammer-beam roof; owned by Prouse & Orchard	14th-15th century onward	West Challacombe Manor / Combe Martin Landmarks Combe Martin	Grade II* listed; dendrochronology dates roof to 1449-1474	Architectural & Feudal Heritage

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Market Gardening	Mixed soft-fruit production (raspberries, gooseberries, currants) alongside strawberries	Late 19th century-1950s	Village	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
Prehistory Saxons & Vikings	Roman mining indications locally; Battle of Cynwit possibly Countisbury	AD 50-878	Anglo-Saxon History Battle of Cynwit	Strategic defence; Viking raids; Possible Roman silver mining on the area	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 18, 2025

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

This archive is based on carefully researched information, using both original records and trusted published sources, as well as contributions from the local community.

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, no guarantees are given.