



# COMBE MARTIN MUSEUM & INFORMATION POINT

## NEWSLETTER MAY 2026

Our summer opening schedule, featuring both morning and afternoon shifts, has been in place for a month and is proving successful. To help maintain this system, the museum is looking for additional volunteers to join the team.

We have slightly shortened the afternoon hours to close at 4pm, and opening hours are 10.30 am - 4.00 pm. Two new volunteer ladies joined our team last month.

Our Easter Chicks hunt in April was a huge success. We had so many people in to take part and at times our volunteers were run off their feet! Thank you to all who organised it - we are planning several more hunts with various themes, especially during school holiday times.

The first of these will be during half term week at the end of May - see details below.

Last Friday our collections manager, Margaret Coward, gave us a really interesting insight into what is involved with looking after all the artefacts in the museum.

She showed us some items which had never been on display and explained how artefacts are accessioned and stored. Thank you Margaret for the work you put in to preparing your talk, and we were only sorry that a few more people weren't there to hear you.

There are new items coming into the shop soon - come along and see what they are. The Tourist Information Point is getting very busy with visitors buying maps and gathering leaflets on local places to visit.

This brings people into the building and we try to encourage them to take a tour of the museum at the same time! We love the "open door" atmosphere.

We receive no funding from any source for running this service so we are grateful for the time the volunteers take to deal with the queries raised by our visitors.

To find out about opportunities and roles at Combe Martin Museum & Information Point, visit our [Volunteering](#) page online. No experience is necessary—just a friendly smile and a few hours to spare!

You will see details of our upcoming events for May, below - **BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW** for the talk by Liz Shakespeare - we are lucky to have been able to book her for a visit as she is in such demand. This is the first of our evening events and we look forward to having a full house.

Our full events calendar is now live on our brand-new website. Head over to [combemartinmuseum.org](http://combemartinmuseum.org) to see what's coming up. From interactive workshops to historical deep-dives, we've made it easier than ever to plan your next visit and stay connected with everything happening at the heart of our museum.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- COFFEE MORNINGS in May - Tuesdays 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - 12.30 pm. Numbers are back up again now after a slower start to the season so do come along and grab a place at a table before it fills up!
- CRAFT TEA CLUB Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30. Tea, cakes, crafts and a chat - what more could you want?
- On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 11 am we are again hosting the North Devon Museums group meeting, when volunteers from all local museums come along to join us for a coffee and to compare notes on how things are going.

These are always interesting meetings and it would be nice if a few of our volunteers could join in as well as those on duty on the day.

- FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY at 7.30 pm. Renowned local author LIZ SHAKESPEARE is coming to talk to us about her life in writing. She will be telling us about the historical research involved as a background to her books which are all set in North Devon.
- This will be a fascinating look into life as a writer. Admission £7 per person to include wine and nibbles. BOOK NOW as places are limited. Either ring the museum on 01271-889031 during opening hours, or pop in to reserve your seats. Or you can book by email: [combemartinmuseum@googlemail.com](mailto:combemartinmuseum@googlemail.com).



- FROM FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY we have another hunt for children to run during half term week - Hunt the Earl of Rone Hats - do come along and have a go! Free entry for children (must be accompanied by an adult).

As always, thank you to all our volunteers who give up so much of their time for the Museum - we wouldn't be here without you!

Visit our website at [combemartinmuseum.org](http://combemartinmuseum.org).