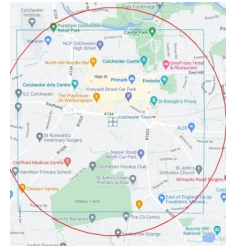




# HISTORY ON OUR DOOR-STEP... ONE SQUARE MILE.



## The Minories, Colchester

### Did you Know?

- The Minories is a Grade II listed building and gardens situated at the east end of the High Street.
- The house is believed to have been built in the Tudor period.
- In 1731 it was purchased by the baize manufacturer Isaac Boggis for £420. (That would be about £81,000 in today's money).
- In 1915 Geoffrey Crawford Bensusan-Butt and his wife Dr. Ruth Crawford took over the lease, purchasing the property along with a portion of land that included the Gothic Folly.
- Crawford later had three exhibitions of his artwork shown at the Minories in 1962, 1964 and 1975.
- Dr. Ruth Crawford was the sister-in-law of the painter Lucien Pissarro and was one of the first female GPs in Colchester. She used the front rooms of The Minories as her consulting rooms, and also reportedly opened Colchester's first infant nursery there.
- In 1956 Dr. Ruth, who had survived her husband, sold The Minories along with the garden to the Victor Batte-Lay Trust.
- By the early 1990s the Trust's resources were significantly reduced, and the gallery closed in 1992. It reopened in 1994 when Firstsite took on the lease and continued to pay some of the Trust's obligations.
- In early 2008 Firstsite left The Minories and moved into Crouch Street while their new building was developed, and in June 2008 Colchester Institute took on the lease for the Minories.
- In October 2015, the cafe and tearoom in the back of the venue was taken over by Wilkin & Sons and is now operated as the Batte-Lay Tearoom.
- The Friends of the Minories is an organisation which supports the gallery and assists in its funding. About four or five events occur each year, generally visits to local places of interest. The revenue from these fundraising events goes into maintaining the garden and its 18th-century Gothic Folly. The garden and Folly are both registered with the Essex Gardens Trust

