

A morris dance group on the front lawn at Mirables, Undercliff Drive, Niton. This is probably the Girls' Friendly Society team who performed there in June 1926. The dancer third from the left is Polly Richards, nee Fry. Polly was born in Freshwater in 1881. In 1911 she was living in St Lawrence. Second on the right is Marjorie Middleton, born 1908, daughter of the owners of Mirables. Thank you to Sally Colegrove for this photo, and Andrew Middleton, Caroline Dudley, Laura Hunt, Ian George and Brian Reeves for additional information.



Report from 12 June 1926, County Press Archive

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—The rally postponed from last week was held on Wednesday; It was opened at the Mirables (by permission of Mr. and Mrs. V. G. Middleton), when a concert was held in the afternoon. The remainder of the programme at the Rectory-hall was carried out in the evening. Part songs were sung by the choir, country dances given by members, Morris dances by the G.F.S. team, songs by the Misses Gillespy and Jacobs, violin solos by Mr. Way, and recitations by the Misses D. Jones and V. King. An impromptu dance concluded the proceedings. About £20 was realised.

See additional information below

A Mrs Richards is mentioned in a report in the IW County Press on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1926. Among the stalls at a Sale of Work in Freshwater is a 'GFS stall run by Mrs Richards and the committee of the GFS (Girls' Friendly Society).

It has been suggested that one of the other girls may have been Rene Howe. Rene and Marjorie Middleton were involved in forming the Girl Guide movement in Ventnor.