

## Young dancers from Stuttgart visit Testvale Squares



For our first Club dance in January 2026, we were joined by Meli and Sven, two young Germans who dance with the Running Muffins near Stuttgart. Sven is the Club President and Meli is the Caller and they are both very good dancers, putting us slightly to shame on our first dance of the year! We asked what the age range of dancing was like in Germany and like the UK, most clubs are 'ageing' but some younger dancers attend with family; but they have a country-wide Club called the Lions where membership is only for those under 30, dances and activities are arranged once a week and it's hoped these younger people will progress on to other dance clubs.



Before Covid there were about 800 Clubs in Germany but now it's down to about 600 and most in the south of Germany. The Running Muffins was founded in 2019 and both Sven and Meli joined near the beginning with a group of bright, colourful people of all ages from 13 to 80+, and they feel very 'bound' to the Club. Their formal dances are called 'specials', all taking place on Saturdays and Sven and Meli like to visit if there's a special on where they might be visiting. It was lovely to spend time with Sven and Meli and we hope they join us again on their next visit to the UK.