

New Zealand Visitors to Testvale Squares



We were very lucky to welcome dancers from New Zealand to our Club on Friday 17th October 2025. Over in the UK to visit family for a few weeks and staying near Winchester, they searched for a local club and found us!



Clare and Robert dance with the Beehive Squares and live in a small city called Lower Hutt near Wellington, the capital of New Zealand. According to the local tourist info, Lower Hutt is on the Hutt River with plenty of walking and cycling trails and is an outdoor haven with expansive coastal views and nature sanctuaries. Sounds like we might have to organise a visit and join in with Beehive Squares!

Clare and Robert have been Square Dancing for about a year and their Club normally has about two squares. This is their first time dancing with another Club and we were honoured that they chose to dance with Testvale. Beehive Squares often join in with other Clubs in North Island and travel to other celebratory dances, but Clare and Robert are still learning so will join in with the social side when they feel ready. Apparently South Island only has one Square Dance Club and as with most Clubs around the world there are no younger dancers coming through, something we are all trying to address.

Robert said that coming to Testvale was a very welcoming experience, walking into a room full of strangers can be daunting but the welcome the Club gave made them feel like one of the family straightaway. Carol got them both up and dancing from the start, doing moves that she knew they would know. They were very accomplished and able to keep up with the Club dancers. Both Clare and Robert hope to pop in again while over here and we look forward to seeing them.

(Photo: Robert, Carol Gerrey, Clare)