

## Formation of The Royal British Legion Nuneaton & Stockingford Branch

*Based on information in the Nuneaton Observer editions of 21<sup>st</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1922, the Nuneaton branch was formed on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 1922.*

Following the annual meeting of the Nuneaton Ex-Servicemen's Institute on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 1922 a meeting was held to consider the question of forming a Nuneaton Branch of the British Legion and it was eventually decided that a local branch should be formed.

Major F. E. Buswell, a Life Member of the Legion presided and the principal speech was delivered by Mr T. E. Mirams, County Organiser of the British legion. He explained in detail the objects of the organisation and the work already accomplished on behalf of the ex-servicemen of the country.

The British Legion had been in existence for 7 months and already some 1,600 branches had been formed and England and Wales had been split into 11 areas.

Nuneaton would be affiliated to the West Midlands area, which comprised of six counties together with Birmingham.

Some questions were put and answered and it was explained that although Stockingford already had a branch, Nuneaton would not be a sub-branch but would be an independent branch.

On the proposition of Mr J. Meads, seconded by Mr T. Deacon, it was unanimously decided to form a Nuneaton Branch and Mr W. G. Horsnall was elected Secretary pro temps.

The first business meeting of the newly formed Nuneaton Branch of the British Legion was held at the Ex-Servicemen's Institute on Monday evening (presumed to be 26<sup>th</sup> February 1922) with Major F. E. Buswell (President of the Institute) presiding.

The principal business was the election of officers and Committee:

Secretary	Mr W. G. Horsnall
Treasurer	Mr H. Spruce
Committee Members	Major F. E. Buswell Messrs J. F. Williams, S. Moreton, - Newton, J. Meads, - Fortune, A. Jeffcote, H. Fretter and J. Leake.

A Chairman and Vice-Chairman were to be elected from the Committee

The annual subscription was set at 2s 6d (12.5p) with an entrance fee of 1s 0d (5p).

A Unity Relief Committee was formed to work in conjunction with the Stockingford Branch for the purpose of providing assistance and help to impecunious ex-servicemen.

Rob & Neil Marston  
January 2012

Footnote:

The date of formation of the Stockingford Branch is unknown but it is believed to have been wound up around 1985. At the 18th April 1995 meeting the Nuneaton Branch members voted to change the name of the Branch to Nuneaton & Stockingford. This change was approved by the County Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1995.