

The story of Buzzacott

Although Buzzacott is a modern firm, we are also hugely proud of our history and the success that we have achieved over nearly 100 years of business.

Potted history of our story so far.

The founding firm (which evolved and became Buzzacott), Watson O'Regan & Co, is established on Fleet Street in London. With an innovative strategy, for its time, of building a firm by acquisition, Watson O'Regan & Co buys Buzzacott Lillywhite the same year.

Partner Brian O'Regan negotiates a merger with Down Kilner and his old schoolboy friend Bobby Vincent, who eventually became Chairman of the firm.

● Shortening our name

We like getting closer to each other:

And sometimes a bit much. One time, about 15 years ago, seven people decided to get into the same dress worn by one of our employees. Most probably one of the most memorable social events we've ever had. And yes, we are as baffled as you are.

Our work in the community:

In the financial year to date, a third of the firm has requested matched funding for their donations. The firm matched sponsorship for 156 miles of marathon, among many other activities. 106 people had used some or all of their volunteering allowance, which at the time of writing added up to 1043 volunteering hours.

The firm has also been a reading partner to Globe School (Bethnal Green) since 2011. To round off the 2014 school year, we treated all Year three children to a day out at the London Eye and a brand new book each. Thanks to a staff suggestion, Buzzacott's Stuart Defries Memorial Fund also donated £500 to the school to buy new literacy-related games and puzzles to replace damaged ones.

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➔ We are home
130 Wood St

Almost **100** years of business

● Niche specialists & differentiation

Late

Accountancy firm West Wake Price splits in two and half of the practice joins Buzzacott and Co, whereupon the firm moves to Salisbury Square House, just off Fleet Street.

With tremendous organic growth, we become a true alternative to the Big Four with our focus on client relationships and niche expertise.

After two additional moves, to 4 Wood Street and then New Fetter Lane, we finally find our current home in 130 Wood Street. This is also the era that we become a top 25 firm in the UK (2012) and we continue to strengthen our client relationships, working in partnership with them rather than 'just being accountants'.

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Fred Buzzacott, a munitions accountant during the First World War and originally from Devon, creates the firm that brings us our name today.

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● Building through acquisition



A woman's world:

The firm has 45% millennials (18-35 year olds), with 152 female staff (51%) working full-time in our building. This is most probably also the reason that there are on average three pairs of shoes living beneath each office desk.

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Zero landfill since 2011:

In 2014, we recycled on average 70% of our waste every month, which saved 56 tonnes of CO2. We also produced 6,787 KWH of energy from our non-recycled waste and we have sent no waste to landfill since 2011.

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Lescher Stephens, a specialist in Charity accounting and one of the founder firms of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, is acquired. This is also the year that the partners grow tired of signing accounts "Buzzacott, Vincent, Watson, Kilner & Co", and the name of the firm is shortened to Buzzacott and Co.

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Our slight tree obsession:

No one knows how old our famous Wood Street plane tree is, but it is thought to be at least 250. Our brand new 6th floor will have 13 meetings rooms, all named after trees (in honour of the famous plane).

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90's

Instead of merging into a larger firm, a new generation of partners decides to look for smaller practices of niche specialists, so Buzzacott and Co continues to differentiate itself from other general practitioner firms.

In addition to the existing Charity specialism, new specialisms are introduced including Private Client and Corporate. The business continues to grow and re-orientates itself from service-focused departments (such as audit and tax) to client-focused specialist teams.

The firm takes the decision to become 'just' Buzzacott.

Further specialisations are added, through the acquisition of Fiscal Solutions with a VAT re-claim business alongside, and then Livingstone & Co to further support our growing number of US tax clients.

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● Growth & new specialisms

We don't just crunch the numbers:

Although we spend most of our day balancing books, sorting out files and leading the way through the tax season, we also make time for the Great British tea round. In fact, our internal Finance team has not stopped making each other that daily cuppa since the day they joined. Together, this team has provided nearly 90 years of service to Buzzacott, its staff, and their clients.

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The Buzzacott mascot:

One day, in 2002, a grey (plastic) pigeon turned up unexpectedly in the post. Rumours say that it was a marketing stunt from a motorbike delivery company, claiming to be faster than pigeon post. Although we took no notice of the company itself, we decided to adopt the pigeon and name him Slovakian Robin. As a successful UK immigrant, Robin was awarded both a British and Slovakian flag next to him at his desk, as well as several seasonal outfits to accommodate the ever-changing British weather.