

# 100 years of expertise 延續百年傳奇

## 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. Below is a potted history of our story so far.

**A woman's world:** The firm has 66% millennials (18-35 year olds), with 201 female staff (50%) 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.

**The Lucky Building:** Our Hong Kong team have been based in the Lucky Building in the heart of the financial district since 2014. The team have swiftly established themselves in the region which we like to think is down to how excellent they are, but the name of their building can't hurt.

**The curse of Fred:** The firm still has a framed photograph of Fred Buzzacott, but some say there is a curse associated with it. Unfortunate things have befallen those who have had the portrait in their office, so it is now kept in a cupboard facing the wall where it can do no harm.

**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 100 years of service to Buzzacott, its staff, and their clients.

**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. All of our meeting rooms are named after trees (in honour of the famous plane).

**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.

**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 3 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.

### 1919 1966 1968 1972 1978 1990s 2000s 2010s 2019

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

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.

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.**

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.

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.

With tremendous organic growth, we become a true alternative to the Big 4 with our focus on client relationships and niche expertise. In 2007 we add to our offering by starting our **HR Consultancy team**.

The Buzzacott Stuart Defries **Memorial Fund** is established, in memory of Buzzacott partner and friend to many, Stuart Defries.

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.

Our offer grows again with the introduction of two new specialisms; **Corporate Finance** and **Tax Investigations**.

Following a **steadfast commitment to become a zero-to-landfill organisation** which sees our London office up its recycling and dispose of non-recyclables via a waste-to-energy facility, we receive our **first 'gold' award** in the 2012 Clean City Awards Scheme.

In 2014, we open a small, shared **office in Hong Kong** from which our expatriate tax team provide **US and UK tax consultancy** work. By 2018 the practice (and the team) has grown sufficiently that the team require more space and move into their own office.

In November 2018 we reach a total **headcount of 400!**

Throughout the 2010's the firm sees a lot of change and to truly reflect the values and culture of the firm we roll out several large projects in quick succession - we revise our corporate narrative, reboot our brand and develop a new website. Although we look a little different we're **still the same firm at heart**.