REGISTERED NUMBER: 02421720 (England and Wales)

# BLUE DIAMOND UK LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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## COMPANY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**DIRECTORS**:

A Roper

R J Hemans

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Brambridge Park Garden Centre

Kiln Lane Brambridge Eastleigh Hampshire SO50 6HT

**REGISTERED NUMBER:** 

02421720 (England and Wales)

**AUDITORS:** 

BDO LLP Arcadia House Maritime Walk Ocean Village Southampton SO14 3TL

BANKERS:

The Royal Bank of Scotland International Limited

(trading as NatWest International)

1 Glategny Esplanade St Peter Port

St Peter Port Guernsey Channel Islands GY1 4BQ

**LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:** 

**Bristows LLP** 

100 Victoria Embankment

London EC4Y 0DH

#### STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 31 December 2020.

#### REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS INCLUDING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND POSITION

2020 was the most difficult year in the Company's history because of the strategic, operational and financial impacts of COVID-19, whose repercussions will be felt for many years to come. Re-reading last year's strategic report is a stark reminder of how challenging, incredible, frightening and unpredictable it was, such as our expectation that 2020 would deliver a worse financial outcome than 2019.

It is hard to believe that the financial performance in 2020 materially exceeded that of 2019. After the devastating closure of the garden centres from 23 March to 13 May, including over half of the key gardening season, the outlook looked bleak. The year continued to be difficult with significant trading restrictions imposed under England's system of COVID-19 tiers, a further national lockdown in November and the fact that the restaurants were closed for roughly half of the vear.

However, in spite of all these trials, the Company delivered an increase in profit after tax of 92% from £5.7m to £11.0m. Trade was very strong continuously after the re-opening of the garden centres in May and there were no further closures of the garden centres for the remainder of the year, only the restaurants. The garden centres benefited from higher average spend as customers bought more less often to avoid the risk of the virus. Customers were not allowed to travel and decided to spend more money on their homes and their gardens where they were forced to spend most of their time. Garden centres have gained from the migration away from the High Street and have so far not been adversely affected by the internet. On top of this, the weather was generally favourable throughout the year with particularly warm and sunny conditions during the key gardening season. The Company also benefited from the support the government offered to protect jobs and preserve cash in the event of extended lockdowns and trading restrictions in the form of furlough grants, local authorities through a rates holiday and our landlords with a number of rent discounts negotiated for the period whilst the garden centres were fully closed and in exchange for lease extensions or the removal of break clauses. The seven Wyevale garden centres acquired in September 2019 had their first full year of trading and the nine Wyevale garden centres acquired in August 2018 continued to mature under our ownership.

Full-year turnover increased by nearly 16% from £151.1m to £174.8m with the garden centres more than offsetting the decline in the restaurants. Gross margin went down from 51.5% to 49.8% mainly because of the sales mix change resulting from the loss of higher margin restaurant sales. Gross profit increased by 12% from £77.8m to £87.0m.

Operating profit nearly doubled from £8.3m to £15.6m thanks to the strong trade, contribution of the seven Wyevales and the three main cost drivers noted above, namely the support for those employees for whom there was no work, the rates holiday and the rent concession.

The Company enjoys a healthy financial position with net assets of £27.0m compared with £13.8m in the prior year, and funding remains available from its ultimate parent company to continue its planned growth strategy.

Freehold properties were revalued during the year leading to a revaluation gain of £2.8m. Stocks increased as we invested in a broader, more authoritative range for the seven Wyevale centres acquired in 2019. Creditors decreased overall as strong trade and cash flow enabled the Company to repay a significant proportion of its long-term intercompany loan, which was offset by the increase in the size of the Group driving short-term operational creditors higher.

#### **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Turnover increased by 16% in total. The gross margin fell from 51.5% to 49.8%. Operating profit margin strengthened from 5.5% to 8.9% thanks to the factors described above and our return on capital employed increased from 11.0% to 22.3%.

Average cost per employee decreased by 2% taking into account the impact of the furlough scheme whilst average turnover per employee increased by 13%.

Our stock turn was flat at 3.8 compared with 3.9 in the prior year because of the investment in additional stock noted above, but we expect it will continue to advance as the business returns to normal and we will target 4.5 in the medium term.

These key performance indicators illustrate how profitability has improved and support our ability to manage our key current asset, stock, under difficult circumstances and following significant, recent acquisitions.

#### STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

It is inevitable that the company will face some risks and uncertainties, of which the main ones are the following:

#### Weather risk

Unseasonal weather can significantly affect sales, which then cannot be recovered because of the defined patterns of the gardening season. If adverse weather affects the key trading period of April to June, customers will not spend that money on their gardens later in the year because the opportunity has gone. We manage this risk by diversifying our product offering into areas that are less affected by the weather, such as home, pet care and restaurants.

#### **Economic risk**

Like all retailers, the Company is exposed to economic weakness and falls in consumer confidence as the economic cycle progresses. We manage this by adopting strict cost control and focusing on working capital management, as well as ensuring our prices are competitive and our offering is tailored to our target market, the ABC1 customer.

#### Competition risk

Although the garden centre industry remains fairly fragmented, it is consolidating rapidly. We are focused on our competitive position and intend to participate in the consolidation of the industry to build scale and harvest all the benefits that brings, and we will remain ruthlessly devoted to our target market, the ABC1 customer, offering them the environment, service and product range they demand.

#### **Funding risk**

The company is dependent on its ultimate parent company for funding. The ultimate parent company enjoys an excellent relationship with its bank, offers material asset backing, has access to sufficient finance and currently benefits from low interest rates. The company is regularly monitoring this and is focused on managing its cash flows and working capital.

#### **Employee risk**

The success of the company is dependent on the recruitment, retention and motivation of its employees, particularly directors and managers. The company offers competitive remuneration packages, the opportunity of an interesting career and progression, develops and trains its employees and communicates with them regularly by both telling and listening.

#### **COVID-19 risk**

The coronavirus represents a major health, social and economic risk that is affecting customers' ability to purchase (both physically and financially) and retailers' ability to provide their service. Supply chains are being disrupted and the UK Government is having to shut down large parts of society and the economy.

#### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

2021 has started with another national lockdown, which means that the restaurants remain closed although the garden centres are open. The restaurants are not expected to re-open until the middle of May at the earliest. Sales in the garden centres were depressed in January but have recovered in February as the weather has improved and customers become more positive that we are finally emerging from the restrictions of the pandemic. It is still too early to tell how the gardening season will turn out but there is pressure on margins from the shortage of containers bringing in Furniture and Gardening stock from the Far East.

The Company continues to benefit from the UK Government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ("furlough scheme") and the rates holiday. We remain ever vigilant and are planning to invest significantly in the portfolio during 2021 and beyond with the immediate major projects being the expansion of Newbridge Garden Centre, the redevelopment of Sanders Garden Centre, the continued redevelopment of Bicester and Bridgemere Garden Centres, the refurbishment of Brambridge Garden Centre, the acquisition of the land at Fermoys Garden Centre and investment in new restaurants at Wilton, Cadbury, Sanders, Melbicks and Weybridge Garden Centres. We continue to look for acquisition opportunities that fit our growth, investment, geographical, customer and financial criteria. At the end of 2020 we signed an agreement for lease for our largest garden centre yet at Scotch Corner in North Yorkshire, which is expected to open in Spring 2023, subject to planning permission being granted.

Naturally, the health and safety of our customers and colleagues continue to be at the forefront of our minds and we thank them for continued support during this testing period.

#### STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### **SECTION 172(1) STATEMENT**

#### Promoting the success of the company

#### **Background**

Section 172 (1) requires Directors to act in the way they consider would be most likely to promote the success of their company for the benefit of its members as a whole and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to:

- (a) the likely long-term consequences of decisions;
- (b) the interests of the company's employees;
- (c) the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- (d) the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment;
- (e) the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- (f) the need to act fairly as between the company's owners.

This statement outlines how the Board of Blue Diamond UK Limited take these factors into account in their decision-making.

#### Who is our member?

Blue Diamond UK Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Diamond Trading Limited, a company registered and controlled in Guernsey. Blue Diamond Trading Limited is in turn a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Diamond Limited, a company also registered and controlled in Guernsey.

#### Our purpose and values

Our company exists to offer our customers inspirational retailing with a point of difference. We offer style, emotion and innovation for the home and garden. We strive to create an aspirational environment for all our customers, one which secures their loyalty and guarantees their satisfaction.

We embrace the individual heritage and location of all our garden centres, respecting where they have come from and the communities they serve.

We encourage entrepreneurialism in our employees and empower them to make both decisions and a difference. We set aside a wholly 'corporate' approach with the intention of fostering creativity, authenticity and effectiveness, whilst still managing risk and safeguarding the health and safety of our stakeholders.

#### Strategy and risk

Our strategy is to grow our profits each year through a combination of organic expansion, acquisition and the development of both greenfield and existing sites.

We identify the key risks the business faces and ensure they are managed to acceptable levels.

### Who are the company's key stakeholders?

Effective engagement with our stakeholders is critical to our success. Our shareholder is vitally important to both our funding and our operation, and both directors of the Company are also directors of our Parent Company and Ultimate Parent Company. We would not be able to provide our service or deliver the excellent standards that define us, if it were not for our amazing employees. We are focused on responding to the needs of, and building long-term relationships with, our customers. Other key stakeholders are the producers and suppliers that we purchase goods and services from, and the communities in which we operate. Our other major stakeholders are the seventeen landlords who own the freeholds of our properties.

#### STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### Long-term sustainability

The directors take all decisions in the long-term interests of the Company. The key focus is on growth, which is essential for the survival of all businesses. Decisions on acquisitions such as that of the Wyevale centres are made to improve the financial strength, customer relevance and competitive position of the Company. The long-term sustainability of the Company is at the forefront of decision-making, particularly in response to the structural changes like the internet that have affected retail in recent years, and the recent impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Directors review the performance of the Company against its competitors every month using information supplied by the Garden Centre Association.

#### **Employees**

Our employees are at the heart of everything we do and embody the driving ethos of the Company, that of offering our customers a point of difference. We recognise talent and achievement by seeking firstly to promote from within. We offer a development programme that allows our employees to learn and progress, particularly in customer service. We strive to attract and retain the best employees by offering a stimulating environment where their opinion matters and by providing an attractive remuneration package. We celebrate the achievements of all our employees at our Annual Awards Do and invite employees to participate in product development initiatives for all of our categories. Many of our employees are also shareholders in the Ultimate Parent Company.

Employees receive updates on the Company's performance from regular dialogue with management, email updates and the Annual Awards Do. The Directors are accessible at all times and visible through their regular site visits to the stores. Employees are encouraged and empowered to make a difference and make decisions, which are celebrated if successful and used as a learning tool if not.

#### Customers

Our customers are at the heart of everything we do and we recognise that we would not have a business without their support and loyalty, which we endeavour to cultivate. We aim to build long-term relationships with our customers and maximise their enjoyment and appreciation of their homes and gardens, which both play such a central role in their lives.

We have developed a customer loyalty programme that now has nearly 600,000 members. We use this as a method of communicating with our customers and to offer them opportunities that are not available to others. We track the financial contribution our loyalty customers make to our business. We make full use of social media to communicate with our customers and encourage their engagement. We make a point of responding to all customers. We ask customers to communicate with us by using our customer feedback portal and ensure we respond to all enquiries, resolve the issues and learn from them. The Directors review all customer feedback daily.

#### Producers and suppliers

Our success as a retailer depends on a robust, mutually beneficial, trusted and transparent supply chain. We aim to conduct all of our business relationships with integrity and expect the same from our suppliers. We work closely with a number of producers and suppliers from many different countries. It is the strength of our relationships with suppliers that allows us to offer high-quality, value for money products to our customers.

The relationships with our suppliers are managed by the Heads of each Category and there is regular dialogue between them. We monitor our payment practices every month and report to the authorities twice a year. The Directors are accessible to suppliers and there is frequent communication between both parties. The period of lockdown resulting from COVID-19 demonstrated the strength of the relationships between the Company and its suppliers because we took the approach that we needed to be open and honest with suppliers, communicate with them, agree payment plans and deliver on what we promised.

#### Landlords

The Directors have direct relationships with all our landlords and high-level, strategic communication occurs at this level whilst operational issues are managed at centre-level. We recognise the contribution of our most important physical asset and take every step to ensure that all our actions take into account the owners of our properties. The response of our landlords to the financial damage wrought by the Coronavirus demonstrates again the strength of our key relationships, with nearly all of our landlords offering a rental discount to compensate for our losses.

#### STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### Community and environment

The Company aims to contribute to the wellbeing of the communities where it operates, including those which create and grow our products and minimise any detrimental effect its operations may have on the environment. Employees are encouraged to support their local communities through volunteering opportunities and the Company continues to support programmes that contribute to causes that enhance society.

We have launched a biodegradable shopping bag that is better for the environment, we support a number of charities such as Greenfingers and local events such as the Malvern Show and RHS events, and we embrace ethically-sourced, environmentally-friendly products such as Eco-Orchids and real Christmas trees. We are aware of the impact many of our products have on the environment and comply with all environmental and regulatory obligations as well as ensuring our suppliers do the same.

#### Acting fairly as between the Company's owners

This is not relevant to the Company because there is only one owner.

#### **Major decisions**

We responded to COVID-19 by setting up a home delivery and customer collection service, all facilitated by the development of our website and the establishment of a call centre. This enabled us to ensure some cash was coming in to the business to pay our suppliers and our employees. We utilised the furlough scheme to ensure we did not have to make significant redundancies whilst our businesses were closed or there were trading restrictions in place. We negotiated rent concessions with our landlords for mutual benefit, to conserve cash on our part and to ensure the sustainability of the rental income on the part of landlords.

We took the decision to resume our significant capital expenditure programme in the final quarter of 2020 because the re-opening of the businesses and the strong demand from customers for garden retail during the pandemic gives us confidence that the structural drivers mean there is a bright future for our industry, and our position within it.

#### ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

R J Hemans - Director

6 May 2021

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

#### **DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- o make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- o state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- o prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS**

The results of the Company for the year are set out in detail in page 15.

The Company did not pay an interim dividend during the year (2019: £nil) and the Directors do not intend to declare a final dividend for the year (2019: £nil).

#### **DISABLED EMPLOYEES**

The Company is committed to a policy of recruitment and promotion on the basis of aptitude and ability without discrimination of any kind. Particular attention is given to the training and promotion of disabled employees to ensure that their career development is not unfairly restricted by their disability, or perceptions of it.

The Company's HR procedures make clear that full and fair consideration must be given to applications made by and the promotion of disabled persons. Where an employee becomes disabled whilst employed by the Company, the HR procedures also require that reasonable effort is made to ensure they have the opportunity for continued employment within the Company. Retraining of employees who become disabled whilst employed by the Company is offered where appropriate.

#### **EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT**

As with all growing companies, finding the right people is a constant challenge. This is particularly difficult for us as our ethos is different from those in our sector. We have recognised that our best people have come from within and are very pleased that many of our employees are developing into fine department heads, managers and category managers over the last year.

Consultation with employees or their representatives has continued at all levels, with the aim of ensuring that their views are taken into account when decisions are made that are likely to affect their interests and that all employees are aware of the financial and economic performance of their business units and the Company as a whole.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Blue Diamond UK Limited is indirectly owned 100% by its ultimate parent company, Blue Diamond Limited, and forms part of the Blue Diamond Group, the second largest garden centre group in the UK.

Blue Diamond Limited has over 360 private shareholders and takes its corporate governance responsibilities very seriously. All corporate governance arrangements are put in place by Blue Diamond Limited and apply to all the companies in the group, including Blue Diamond UK Limited.

Blue Diamond Limited has a board of seven directors, of which two directors form the board of Blue Diamond UK Limited. All major decisions taken by Blue Diamond UK Limited must be approved by the board of Blue Diamond Limited.

Blue Diamond Limited does not follow a specific corporate governance code but it does look to the Wates Corporate Governance Principles for Large Private Companies for guidance, using the follow approach:

#### Purpose and leadership

Blue Diamond Limited recognises the company's purpose is to deliver inspirational retailing with a point of difference, offering style, emotion and innovation for the home and garden and striving to create an aspirational environment that encourages our customers' loyalty and satisfaction. This purpose is communicated throughout our business and celebrated each year at our Annual Awards Do where employees' achievements are recognised. Our Managing Director lives and breathes this approach and our strategy is focused on the development of teams that can deliver this, the engagement of our customers with a deep, wide and exciting product range and the acquisition, development and maintenance of garden centres that can realise this.

#### **Board composition**

The board of Blue Diamond Limited is composed of seven members, two executive directors and five non-executive. Our Managing Director has over 25 years of success in garden centre retailing, whilst our Chairman also has deep and extensive experience of consumer retail in both private and public companies. The other directors also have relevant skills and knowledge in retail, finance and consumer sectors. The board meets five times a year and there is a schedule of delegated authorities that defines its power. The board as a whole meets as the Nominations Committee and there is also an Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee with clear terms of reference and overseen by non-executive directors with relevant skills and experience.

### **Director responsibilities**

The board and individual directors are all experienced directors and understand their duties as directors under the Companies Act 2006. The schedule of delegated authorities defines their responsibilities in relation to Blue Diamond Limited.

#### Opportunity and risk

The board discusses strategy formally once a year but at each meeting considers what progress is being made. The board understands that the strategy involves growing the business by taking advantage of acquisition opportunities of both greenfield and brownfield sites and the redevelopment of existing sites. All decisions taken by the board are considered in the context of their impact on the Group's reputation, long-term health, customers, employees, suppliers, community and shareholders. The risks of decisions are also assessed in terms of their likelihood and impact as well as agreeing mitigation strategies.

#### Remuneration

The Group, of which the Company is a part, has a remuneration committee with clear terms of reference informed by The Combined Code and overseen by two non-executive directors with relevant skills and experience. The remuneration committee reports to the board twice a year and ensures that executive directors and senior management are remunerated so as to ensure their recruitment, retention and motivation in the context of the need to secure the long-term financial and cultural health of the Group. The two directors of the Company fall under the scope of the Group remuneration committee.

### Stakeholder relationships and engagement

The directors are focused on their duties to stakeholders and achieve this through monitoring of the Group's customer loyalty scheme, attendance at the Annual Awards Do with employees and annual site visits and open, two-way communication with shareholders through the AGM. The Company Secretary acts as a conduit between shareholders and the board, and the Chairman is also available to shareholders.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING	
Energy Consumption (kWh)	
Electricity Natural Gas Transport Fuels Bottle Gas (LPG) Other Fuels	10,692,572 9,269,813 1,447,425 2,380,548 1,093,796
Total	24,884,154
Greenhouses Gas Emissions (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)	
From combustion of fuels Natural Gas Transport Fuels Bottle Gas Other Fuels	1,704.44 348.21 510.58 211.96
Subtotal .	2,775.19
Purchased Electricity, Steam, Heat & Cooling	2,492.87 
Total Gross Emissions	<u>5,268.06</u>
Renewable Electricity Carbon Offsets Domestic Carbon Units	: 
Total Net Emissions	5,268.06
Intensity Ratios Annual MWh per £m Sales Revenue	142.20
Annual tonnes per CO₂ Sales Revenue	30.10

During 2020 we undertook a thorough review of our energy consumption, particularly in the Wyevale sites, and invested in energy-saving and monitoring equipment.

This has led to significant reductions in electricity and gas consumption, of 22% and 23% respectively.

We will continue the work in 2021 with more focus on the seven Wyevale sites we bought in 2019.

### **Calculation methodology**

In order to calculate the above disclosure, the usage was collated from all the utility invoices across all garden centres for the year to 31 December 2020. This was then converted from KwH into tCO<sub>2</sub>e in line with the 2019 UK Government environmental reporting guidance.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### **PRINCIPAL RISKS**

#### Price risk

The company is exposed to price risk due to normal economic and commercial increases in the purchase price of goods and services. The Company mitigate this by dealing with a wide range of suppliers and negotiating robustly and fairly with them

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will not meet its obligations under a customer contract, leading to a financial loss. The Company is exposed to credit risk from its concession partners, customer accounts and from its financing activities, including deposits with bank and financial institutions. The Company mitigates this risk with clear, robust credit control procedures. The value of the Company's debt exceeds its bank deposits.

#### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when a company is unable to meet its short-term financial obligations because it is unable to convert its assets into cash without incurring a loss. The Group manages this risk with robust stock and debtor management as well as having access to the borrowing facilities of its ultimate parent company.

#### STATEMENT OF ENGAGEMENT WITH SUPPLIERS/CUSTOMERS

#### Suppliers

Blue Diamond UK Limited has a dedicated buying team working closely with national and international suppliers of products that we sell through our garden centres and websites. We attach great importance to our relationships with our suppliers and collaborate with them on a number of projects including our brand products. We are in constant communication with them, hold regular meetings and ensure that payments are made in accordance with out terms and conditions and both parties' respective circumstance. Payment Practice Reporting is published every six months and is benchmarked against competitors within the industry.

#### Customers

The Company engages with customers through regular updates in garden centres, by post and email and through our website. We have a loyalty scheme with over half a million customers that we use every week to drive engagement, spend and retention. We distribute offers to our customers every year through our Verve magazine. There is a portal on our website, which allows customers to give feedback on their experience, which our Managing Director monitors daily. We offer an online and instore 'Plant Doctor' service that allows customers to ask questions about their gardening activities. Blue Diamond have a dedicated Customer Service team in each of our centres, which helps customers with a range of queries and questions. Talks, presentations and tutorials are a regular part of our services and engagement with customers. Mystery shopper visits take place in each of our garden centres once a year. Directors and senior managers visit garden centres regularly to talk and listen to customers.

#### POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 1 April 2021 the Company exercised the call option to purchase the remaining 75% of the share capital of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited for £1,807,770. The sellers had exercised their put option to sell their shareholding in May 2020.

#### MATTERS COVERED IN THE STRATEGIC REPORT

The principal activity, business review and information on likely future developments in the business of the Company are included in the Strategic Report on pages 2 to 6.

#### DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITOR

Each of the persons who are Directors at the time when this Directors' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as each Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware, and
- o each Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

During the year, BDO LLP were appointed as the auditor in replacement of BDO Limited. In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, BDO LLP will be deemed to have been reappointed as auditor 28 days after these financial statements were sent to members or 28 days after the latest date prescribed for filing the accounts with the registrar, whichever is earlier.

#### **DIRECTORS**

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 January 2020 to the date of this report.

A Roper R J Hemans

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

1044

R J Hemans - Director

6 May 2021

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLUE DIAMOND UK LIMITED

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its profit for the year then ended:
- · have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- · have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements of Blue Diamond UK Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- · the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or the Directors' Report.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLUE DIAMOND UK LIMITED

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- · the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- · certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- · we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- discussions with management regarding consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- evaluation and testing of the operating effectiveness of management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- challenging assumptions made by management in their significant accounting estimates in particular in relation to
  estimation of inventory provisions and assessing whether the judgements made in accounting entries are indicative of
  potential bias;
- identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual journal entries posted to revenue or control accounts and journals posted by senior management;
- reviewing senior management board meeting minutes for evidence of any fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLUE DIAMOND UK LIMITED

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Malcolm Shixton

2BEB056D80974E4
Malcolm Thixton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor
Southampton
United Kingdom

Date: 6 May 2021

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

## BLUE DIAMOND UK LIMITED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
TURNOVER	5	174,846	151,137
Cost of sales		(87,855)	<u>(73,345</u> )
GROSS PROFIT		86,991	77,792
Distribution costs		(498)	-
Administrative expenses		(80,574)	(73,204)
		5,919	4,588
Other operating income	7	9,657	3,685
OPERATING PROFIT	5	15,576	8,273
Interest payable PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	8	<u>(785)</u>	(1,084)
	•	14,791	7,189
Tax on profit	9	(3,771)	<u>(1,451</u> )
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		11,020	5,738
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Revaluation of freehold properties Movement in deferred tax relating to		2,762	-
revaluation of freehold properties		<u>(525)</u>	
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME THE YEAR	FOR	2,237	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME INTO THE YEAR	FOR	13,257	5,738

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

## **BLUE DIAMOND UK LIMITED (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02421720)**

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 31 DECEMBER 2020

			2020	2019 (	restated)
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
FIXED ASSETS	_				
Intangible assets	10		2,337		2,487
Tangible assets	11		52,788		50,268
Investments	12		11,525		11,525
			66,650		64,280
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	13	23,681		22,124	
Debtors	14	4,343		5,009	
Cash at bank and in hand		915		<u>1,574</u>	
		28,939		28,707	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(26,020</u> )		<u>(17,776</u> )	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,919		10,931
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT			CO ECO		75 044
LIABILITIES			69,569		75,211
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one					
vear vear	16		(40,677)		(60,673)
DEFERRED TAXATION	17		<u>(1,811</u> )	•	<u>(714</u> )
NET ASSETS			27,081		13,824
		•			
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	18		626		626
Share premium			375		375
Revaluation reserve			2,237		40
Profit and loss account			23,843		12,823
			27,081		13,824

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 6 May 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

R J Hemans - Director

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Called up share capital £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Share premium £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Total equity £'000
Balance at 1 January 2019 (as previously stated)	626	7,986	375	-	8,987
Prior year adjustment (note 3)	-	(901)	-	-	(901)
Balance at 1 January 2019 (as restated)	626	7,085	375		8,086
Comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	•
Profit for the year	•	5,738			5,738
Balance at 31 December 2019	626	12,823	375	<u>·</u>	13,824
Comprehensive income for the year					
Profit for the year	-	11,020	•	-	11,020
Surplus on revaluation of freehold properties	-	•		2,762	2,762
Movement on deferred tax relating to revaluation of freehold properties	-	-	-	(525)	(525)
Other comprehensive income for the year	<del></del>			2,237	2,237
Balance at 31 December 2020	626	23,843	375	2,237	27,081

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Blue Diamond UK Limited is a private company, limited by shares and incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 2006. The address of the registered office is given on the Company Information page and the principal activity is set out in the Strategic Report.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and the Companies Act 2006.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the Company's accounting policies (see note 4).

The following principal accounting policies have been consistently applied:

#### Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis as the Directors have prepared detailed budgets for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing the accounts which show that the Company is expected to be able to meet all its liabilities as they fall due. However, it is acknowledged that the global and UK outbreak of COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the global and UK economy and businesses.

As a result of the market uncertainty due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the possible impact on available cash during the next 12 months trading has been modelled under a range of assumptions and sensitivities. As part of this, the Directors have produced a detailed going concern stress test for the Blue Diamond Limited Group, of which this company is a part. The conclusion of our stress test for Blue Diamond Limited is that the business could sustain the loss of more than £52m (30%) of turnover over the course of the 12 months following the date of the financial statements, without exceeding current banking facilities.

The Group, and the companies which are wholly owned, is expected to remain in a strong financial position during the forecast period from the date of signing the accounts. The Directors are confident of being able to trade for a period of at least 12 months from the approval of the financial statements and have therefore concluded that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis. Following the Group's refinancing on 31 March 2021, the Company has access to £60m of borrowing facilities until at least 31 March 2024.

#### Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

FRS 102 allows a qualifying entity certain disclosure exemptions, subject to conditions.

The company has taken advantage of the following exemptions in its individual financial statements:

- from preparing a statement of cash flows, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity and the consolidated statement of cash flows, included in these financial statements, includes the company's cash flows;
- from the financial instrument disclosures, required under FRS 102 paragraphs, 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b), 11.48(c), 12.26, 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A, as the information is provided in the consolidated financial statement disclosures;
- from disclosing share-based payment arrangements, required under FRS 102 paragraphs 26.18(b), 26.19 to 26.21 and 26.23, concerning its own equity instruments, as the company financial statements are presented with the consolidated financial statements and the relevant disclosures are included therein; and
- from disclosing the company key management personnel compensation, as required by FRS 102 paragraph 33.7.

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of Blue Diamond Limited as at 31 December 2020 and these financial statements may be obtained from the registered address of the head office as set out on the Company Information page.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### Exemption from preparing consolidated financial statements

The Company is a parent company that is also a subsidiary included in the consolidated financial statements of its ultimate parent company, Blue Diamond Limited, and is therefore exempt from the requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements under section 400 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Functional and presentation currency

The group financial statements are presented in pound sterling and rounded to thousands.

The company's functional and presentation currency is the pound sterling.

#### Turnover

Turnover comprises revenue from garden centres and is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods provided in the normal course of business, net of returns, Value Added Tax, other sales taxes and discounts. Sales of goods are recognised at the point of sale to the customer when the Company has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the buyer.

#### Other operating income

Other operating income includes concession rental income, which is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the period of the lease.

#### **Government grants**

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the same period as the related expenditure within Other Operating Income.

During the year, income received from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been accounted for in accordance with the above.

#### **Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Operating lease incentives received to enter into lease agreements are released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the term of the lease. The unamortised balance is recognised in creditors as lease incentives.

Where assets are financed by leasing agreements that give rights approximating to ownership (finance leases), the assets are treated as if they had been purchased outright. The amount capitalised is the present value of the minimum lease payments payable over the term of the lease. The corresponding leasing commitments are shown as amounts payable to the lessor. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income over the shorter of estimated useful economic life and the term of the lease.

Lease payments are analysed between capital and interest components so that the interest element of the payment is charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income over the term of the lease and is calculated so that it represents a constant proportion of the balance of capital repayments outstanding. The capital element reduces the amounts payable to the lessor.

During the year the Company negotiated rent concessions with landlords, of which £2.1m were in exchange for lease extensions or the removal of break clauses, and have therefore been spread over the remaining terms of the leases.

#### Pensions

#### Defined contribution pension plan

The Company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Company has no further payment obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown within accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### **Finance costs**

Finance costs are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the term of the debt using the effective interest rate method so that the amount charged is at a constant rate on the carrying amount. Issue costs are initially recognised as a reduction in the proceeds of the associated capital instrument.

#### Current and deferred taxation

The tax expense for the year comprises of current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except that a charge attributable to an item of income or expense recognised directly in equity is also recognised directly in equity

Current tax is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date in the countries where the Company operates and generates income.

Deferred tax balances are recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed by the Statement of Financial Position date, except that:

Deferred tax balances are not recognised in respect of permanent differences except in respect of business combinations, when deferred tax is recognised on the differences between the fair values of assets acquired and the future tax deductions available for them and the differences between the fair values of liabilities acquired and the amount that will be assessed for tax. Deferred tax is determined using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

- o The recognition of deferred tax assets is limited to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits; and
- o Any deferred tax balances are reversed if and when all conditions for retaining associated tax allowances have been met.

#### Intangible assets - goodwill

Goodwill represents the amount by which the purchase consideration for the acquisition of a business exceeds the fair value to the Company of the separable net assets acquired. Negative goodwill represents the amount by which the fair value of the separable net assets of a business acquired exceeds the purchase consideration. Goodwill is initially recognised at cost and is subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment, if applicable.

Goodwill amortisation is calculated by applying the straight-line method to its estimated useful life. Goodwill is being amortised to 'administrative expenses' over 10 to 20 years. Estimates of the useful economic life of goodwill are based on a variety of factors such as the expected use of the acquired business, the expected useful life of the cash generating units to which the goodwill is attributed, any legal, regulatory or contractual provisions that can limit useful life and other assumptions that market participants would consider in respect of similar businesses.

### Tangible fixed assets (excluding individual freehold properties)

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

At each reporting date the Company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined which is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

The Company adds to the carrying amount of an item of fixed assets the cost of replacing part of such an item when that cost is incurred, if the replacement part is expected to provide incremental future benefits to the Company. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. Repairs and maintenance are charged to profit or loss during the period in which they are incurred.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued Tangible fixed assets - continued

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives range as follows:

Freehold land - Not depreciated Freehold buildings - 40 - 50 years

Leasehold improvements - 10 - 35 years, limited to the lease term

Motor vehicles - 4 years
Furniture, fixtures and equipment - 3 - 10 years
Computer equipment - 3 - 4 years

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

#### Revaluation of tangible fixed assets

Individual freehold properties are carried at fair value at the date of the revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Revaluations are undertaken with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the Statement of Financial Position date.

Fair values are determined from market based evidence normally undertaken by professionally qualified valuers.

Revaluation gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income unless losses exceed the previously recognised gains or reflect a clear consumption of economic benefits in which case the excess losses are recognised in profit or loss.

#### Investment in subsidiaries

Investments in subsidiaries are measured at cost less accumulated impairment.

#### Investment in joint ventures

During May 2018, Blue Diamond UK Limited entered into a transaction to acquire 25% of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited from Lagan Farms (Dorset) Limited. At the same time, an option was put in place for both the buyers and sellers to allow the disposal of the remaining 75%.

In May 2020, the Lagan Farms (Dorset) Limited exercised their option to sell the remaining 75%.

A prior year adjustment has been recognised in these financial statements to disclose the liability agreed at the date the option was granted. Please refer to the prior year adjustment accounting policy for further information.

On 1 April 2021 the Company exercised the call option to purchase the remaining 75% of the share capital of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited for £1,807,770.

#### **Stocks**

Stocks, which comprise retail goods for resale, are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due provision for damaged, obsolete or slow moving items.

Cost is calculated using the weighted average method and includes all costs incurred in bringing each product to its present location and condition. Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price less costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### Supplier rebates

The price that the Company pays suppliers for goods is determined through negotiations with suppliers regarding both the list price and a variety of rebates and discounts. The principal categories of rebate income are in the form of volume and marketing rebates.

Volume rebates are earned on purchases from the supplier and are recognised over the period set out in the supplier agreement.

Marketing rebates include promotions, mark downs and marketing support provided by suppliers. Marketing rebates are agreed with suppliers for specific products.

Rebate income is recognised when the Company has contractual entillement to the income, the income can be estimated reliably, and when it is probable the income will be received. Rebate income recognised is recorded against cost of sales and stocks, which is adjusted to reflect the lower purchase cost for the goods on which a rebate is earned.

#### Financial instruments

The Company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities including trade and other receivables, trade creditors and loans from related parties.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statement of Financial Position when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price (including transaction costs) and subsequently held at amortised cost. Financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (after deducting transaction costs) and subsequently held at amortised cost.

#### Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

#### Cash at bank and on hand

Cash is represented by cash in hand, current bank accounts and deposits with financial institutions with maturities of three months or less and are subject to insignificant risk of change in value.

#### Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### Provisions

A provision is recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation.

Where the unavoidable costs of a lease exceed the economic benefit expected to be received from it, a provision is made for the present value of the obligations under the lease.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses include all wages and salaries.

The Company benefited from £3.6m of rates discounts from UK Local Authorities in 2020 as part of the relief offered to retail and hospitality businesses to mitigate the impact of Covid-19.

In 2019, administration expenses included £0.2m of distribution costs. Distribution costs are now disclosed separately in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income but no adjustment has been made in the prior year because it is immaterial.

#### Revaluation reserve

The revaluation reserve records the value of asset revaluations and fair value movements on assets recognised in other comprehensive income.

#### Share premium

The share premium account includes the premium on issue of equity shares, net of any issue costs.

#### Profit and loss account

The profit and loss account represents cumulative profits or losses, net of dividends paid and other adjustments.

#### 3. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

#### **Deferred** tax

An error was discovered in the calculation of the deferred tax position resulting from the acquisition of the nine garden centres from Wyevale Garden Centres Ltd in 2018.

The split of fixed assets acquired between assets eligible and ineligible for capital allowances was misstated, with eligible fixed assets being understated.

Whilst this error was identified and corrected in the 2018 final tax computation submitted to HMRC, the financial statements were not amended in 2019.

The 2018 deferred tax liability should therefore have been higher by £901,000, which is considered a material adjustment in comparison with the materiality threshold used for the 2018 audit and is therefore a prior year adjustment.

This prior year adjustment has resulted in a decrease to the 'Profit and loss account' and an increase in the 'Deferred tax provision' as at 1 January 2019 of £901,000.

### Fixed asset investments

In May 2018, the Group entered into a transaction to acquired 25% of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited. At the same time, a put and call option was put in place for both the buyers and sellers to allow the disposal of the remaining 75%.

Given that the put and call option was symmetric, this effectively guaranteed that one of the options would be exercised and the liability to purchase the remaining 75% shareholding was materially fixed.

The deferred consideration for the 75% shareholding should have been recognised in May 2018.

This prior year adjustment has resulted in an increase in 'Fixed asset investments' and an increase in 'Creditors: amounts falling due within one year' as at 31 December 2019 of £1,961,000.

The investment was incorrectly presented as an associate in the past and is now presented as a joint venture, noting that correcting this has had no effect on the amount of investments, assets or the Statement of Financial position totals (excluding the impact of the option).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 4. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors have made the following significant judgements and key estimates:

#### Goodwill

Goodwill arising on the acquisition of garden centres and restaurants is amortised over 20 years because these are long term investments that are expected to last 20 years. They are reviewed annually for any signs of impairment.

No impairment of goodwill is required because the recoverable amounts exceed their carrying amounts based on management's assessment of market conditions and financial and operating performances.

#### Tangible fixed assets:

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance programmes are taken into account.

No impairment of fixed assets is required because the recoverable amounts exceed their carrying amounts based on management's assessment of market conditions and financial and operating performances.

Freehold properties are revalued by an independent valuation expert on a regular basis such that the carrying value is in line with prevailing market rates. The valuation uses the profits method which is based on the group's estimates and assumptions concerning its future revenue growth, trading and cash flows.

There are a number of estimates considered as part of the valuation process including assessing the garden centre market as a whole and the availability of comparable data within the market, the useful economic life of each property and considering expected future consumer spending habits and trends which may have an impact on the valuation of the properties.

#### Stocks

Determining stock provisioning involves estimating the realisable value of the stocks held by the Group. Calculating the recoverable realisable value of stocks requires a degree of estimation in terms of the likely demand and prices for individual stock items. Management monitor demand very closely and continue to ensure that any changes in the market are appropriately reflected in their assessments.

#### 5. TURNOVER AND OPERATING PROFIT

The Company operates within one business segment being the operation of garden centres and associated business activities, with business principally transacted in the United Kingdom.

The operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2020	2013
	£000	£000
Amortisation of goodwill	175	148
Amortisation of negative goodwill	(25)	(27)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	4,420	3,495
Profit on disposal of tangible assets	(1)	(9)
Net foreign exchange losses	25	`1
Fees payable to the Company's auditor:		
- Audit fee pursuant to legislation	47	47
- Other assurance services	5	5
Operating lease rentals: land and buildings	13,192	12,355
Other operating income: concession rents receivable	(3,814)	(3,574)
Other operating income: government grants	(5,799)	-
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

2019

2020

#### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued** FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 5. **TURNOVER AND OPERATING PROFIT - continued**

Operating profit is stated after charging management fees totalling £8,530,937 (2019: £7,469,304) payable to the parent company and the ultimate parent company. The Directors and other key management personnel did not receive any emoluments from the Company during the year (2019: £nil). An element of management fees relates to the provision of services by certain directors and key management personnel who are employed by the parent and ultimate parent companies.

#### 6. **EMPLOYEES**

Staff costs were as follows:		
	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	35,062	29,470
Social security costs	2,133	1,777
Cost of defined contribution scheme	508	422
	37,703	31,669

The average monthly number of employees, including the Directors, during the year was as follows:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Management Retail	61 2.904	55 2,838
Notali	<del></del>	2,000
	2,965	2,893

Employees are eligible to join a Group Personal Pension Plan operated by Aviva and offered through Blue Diamond Limited (note 20). This is a defined contribution pension scheme whereby funding is based on a fixed percentage of salary and the assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund. During the year the Company's contributions to the fund amounted to £70,984 (2019: £59,711).

The Company also pays contributions on behalf of certain of its employees to the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), which is a pension scheme set up by the UK Government. The pension costs charged in these financial statements includes contributions to NEST for the year amounting to £436,804 (2019: £362,010).

The remuneration of R Hemans and A Roper is paid by a related party. The amount of their remuneration attributable to the services that they provide to the company is £865,538.

#### 7. OTHER OPERATING INCOME

		2020 £000	2019 £000
	Government grant income Concession rents receivable Other	5,799 3,814 4	3,574 111
		9,657	3,685
8.	INTEREST PAYABLE		
		2020 £000	2019 £000
	On loan from ultimate parent company On finance leases	779 6	1,078 6
		<u>785</u>	1,084

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### **TAXATION**

	2020 £000	2019 £000
UK corporation tax  Current tax on profits for the year  Adjustments in respect of previous periods	2,883 302	1,152 1
Total current tax	3,185	1,153
Deferred tax Origination and reversal of timing differences Adjustments in respect of previous periods	223 363	184 114
Total deferred tax	586	298
Taxation on profit	3,771	1,451
Factors affecting tax charge for the year The tax assessed for the year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the differences are explained below:	ne UK 19% (2	019: 19%). The
amerences are explained below.	2020 £000	2019 £000
Profit before tax	14,791	7,189
Profit multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2019: 19%)	2,810	1,366
Effects of:  Expenses not deductible for tax purposes  Non-taxable income  Fixed asset differences  Deferred tax not recognised  Adjustments to tax charge in respect of prior periods  Deferred tax rate difference  Group relief	6 (115) 300 33 665 94 (22)	(14) - - 115 (1) (15).
Total tax charge for the year	3,771	1,451

Factors that may affect future tax charges
Although the UK tax rate for 1 April 2020 was previously announced to reduce to 17%, subsequent to the year end, the Government has announced the rate will remain at 19%.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

10.	INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
		Goodwill £'000	Negative goodwill £'000	Totals £'000
	COST	2000		2000
	At 1 January 2020	3,485	_(508)	2,977
	At 31 December 2020	3,485	_(508)	2,977
	AMORTISATION			
	At 1 January 2020	779	(289)	490
	Amortisation for year	<u>175</u>	(25)	150
	At 31 December 2020	954	(314)	640
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2020	<u>2,531</u>	<u>(194</u> )	2,337
	At 31 December 2019	2,706	<u>(219</u> )	2,487

At 31 December 2020, the carrying amount of goodwill attributable to Coton Orchard Garden Centre, following the acquisition of the three concessions in 2017 and the garden centre in 2016 is £893,900 (2019: £948,491). The remaining amortisation period of this goodwill is 18 years. At 31 December 2020, the carrying amount of goodwill in relation to Trelawney Garden Centre, which is also individually material, is £721,146 (2019: £772,657), with a remaining amortisation period of 15 years.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
		Freehold	Leasehold	Motor
		property	improvements	vehicles
	COST OR VALUATION	£'000	£.000	£'000
	At 1 January 2020	18,452	22,347	513
	Additions	10,432	897	133
	Revaluations	2,563	-	-
				<del></del>
	At 31 December 2020	21,015	23,244	646
	DEPRECIATION			
	At 1 January 2020	-	3,474	320
	Charge for year	199	1,136	84
	Revaluation adjustments	(199)	•	-
	•			
	At 31 December 2020		<u>4,610</u>	404
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2020	21,015	18,634	242
		<del></del>	=	
	At 31 December 2019	18,452	18,873	193
		Furniture, fixtures and equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Totals £′000
	COST OR VALUATION	2 000	2 000	2000
	At 1 January 2020	20,629	2.385	64,326
	Additions	2,943	205	4,178
	Revaluations	<u> </u>		2,563
	At 31 December 2020	23,572	2,590	71,067
	DEPRECIATION			
	At 1 January 2020	9,033	1,231	14,058
	Charge for year	2,511	490	4,420
	Revaluation adjustments	-	•	(199)
	•	<del></del> _		<del></del> ·
	At 31 December 2020	<u>11,544</u>	<u> 1,721</u>	18,279
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2020	12,028	<u>869</u>	52,788
	At 31 December 2019	11,596	<u>1,154</u>	50,268
				-

The carrying values are based on valuations as at 31 December 2020 carried out by an independent, professionally qualified valuer and reviewed at the reporting date by the Directors.

The valuations were undertaken in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Appraisal and Valuation Manual on an open market value for existing use basis.

Details of the assumptions made and the key sources of estimation uncertainty are given in note 4.

The Company has provided first legal charges in favour of The Royal Bank of Scotland International Limited (trading as NatWest) over its freehold properties with a carrying value of £21,015,000 (2019: £18,452,000) as security for the ultimate parent company's bank loan and overdraft facilities (see note 18).

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

If land and buildings had been accounted for under the historic cost accounting rules, the properties would have been measured as follows:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Historic cost Accumulated depreciation	18,452 (199)	18,452
Net book value	18,253	18,452

#### 12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments in subsidiary companies £000	investments in joint ventures £000	Total £000
Cost At 1 January 2020 (as previously stated)	8,350	1,214	9,564
Prior year adjustment (note 3)	•	1,961	1,961
At 1 January 2020 (as restated)	8,350	3,175	11,525
31 December 2020	8,350	3,175	11,525

#### Investments in subsidiary companies

The Company owns the whole of the allotted ordinary share capital of Chatsworth Garden Centre Limited and Newbridge Nurseries Limited, both incorporated in England.

The principal activity of Chatsworth Garden Centre Limited is that of a garden centre retailer and its financial year end is 30 June. The profit before tax for the period ended 30 June 2020 for Chatsworth Garden Centre Limited was £nil (2019: £222,035) and its net assets at 31 December 2020 were £978,301 (2019: £1,021,515). The trade and net assets of Chatsworth Garden Centre Limited were transferred to Blue Diamond UK Limited on 1 January 2020

Newbridge Nurseries Limited ceased trading on 31 December 2015 after transferring its net trading assets to the Company and is currently dormant. The net assets of the Company at 31 December 2020 were £8,682,104 (2019: £8,682,104).

### Investment in joint venture

During May 2018, Blue Diamond UK Limited entered into a transaction to acquire 25% of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited from Lagan Farms (Dorset) Limited. At the same time, an option was put in place for both the buyers and sellers to allow the disposal of the remaining 75%.

In May 2020, Lagan Farms (Dorset) Limited exercised their option to sell the remaining 75%.

On 1 April 2021 the Company exercised the call option to purchase the remaining 75% of the share capital of Milton Park (Dorset) Ltd for £1,808,000, including interest. On the same date the trade and net assets of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited were transferred to Blue Diamond UK Limited, leaving Milton Park (Dorset) Limited dormant.

A prior year adjustment has arisen in relation to the investment in Milton Park (Dorset) Limited.

Given that the put and call option was symmetric, this effectively guaranteed that one of the options would be exercised and the liability to purchase the remaining 75% shareholding was materially fixed.

#### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued** FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 12. **FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued**

The deferred consideration for the 75% shareholding should have been recognised in May 2018.

This prior year adjustment has resulted in an increase in 'Fixed asset investments' and an increase in 'Creditors: amounts falling due within one year' as at 31 December 2019 of £1,961,000.

The investment was incorrectly presented as an associate in the past and is now presented as a joint venture, noting that correcting this has had no effect on the amount of investments, assets or the Statement of Financial position totals (excluding the impact of the option).

#### 13. **STOCKS**

	2020	2019
	£.000	£'000
Goods for resale	23,681	22,124

Goods for resale are disclosed net of a provision for slow moving and obsolete stock of £427,198 (2019: £493,000). An impairment reversal of £65,802 (2019: £66,996) was recognised in cost of sales against stock as a movement in the provision.

#### **DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR** 14.

	2020 £'000	2019 (restated) £'000
Trade debtors	216	523 ·
Other debtors	836	345
Prepayments	2,554	4,141
Amounts due from group undertakings	<u></u>	
	4,343	5,009

Trade debtors are stated after provisions for impairment of £nil (2019: £nil).

#### 15. **CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	14,943	11,082
Other taxes and social security	6,062	4,302
Accruals	1,708	1,818
Lease incentive	116	34
UK corporation tax payable	1,424	495
Obligations under finance leases	3	45
Deferred acquisition of joint venture	<u>1,764</u>	
	26,020	17,776

#### CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR 16

	2020	2019 (restated)
	£'000	£'000
Lease incentive	2,886	953
Amount due to Blue Diamond Limited	37,791	57,759
Deferred acquisition of joint venture	•	1,961
	40,677	60,673

The amount due to Blue Diamond Limited, the ultimate parent company, is unsecured, bears interest at 1.5% (2019: 1.5%) above the one-month LIBOR rate on the net amount payable. The Directors have received assurances from the ultimate parent company that it will not require repayment of the loan within at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 17. DEFERRED TAXATION

	2020 £000	2019 (restated) £000
At beginning of year Charged to profit Arising on business combinations Charged to other comprehensive income	714 586 (14) 525	603 298 (187)
At end of year	1,811	714
The provision for deferred tax is made up as follows:		
	2020 £000	2019 £000
Other short term timing differences Accelerated capital allowances	(11) 1,822	714
	1,811	714

An error was discovered in the calculation of the deferred tax position resulting from the acquisition of the nine garden centres from Wyevale Garden Centres Ltd in 2018.

The split of fixed assets acquired between assets eligible and ineligible for capital allowances was misstated, with eligible fixed assets being understated.

Whilst this error was identified and corrected in the 2018 final tax computation submitted to HMRC, the financial statements were not amended in 2019.

The 2018 deferred tax liability should therefore have been higher by £901,000, which is considered a material adjustment in comparison was the materiality threshold used for the 2018 audit and is therefore a prior year adjustment.

This prior year adjustment has resulted in a decrease to the 'Profit and loss account' and an increase in the 'Deferred tax provision' as at 1 January 2019 of £901,000.

#### 18. CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
626,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	626	626

#### 19. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Company is party to a composite cross guarantee agreement for the loan and overdraft facilities of its ultimate parent company with The Royal Bank of Scotland International Limited (trading as NatWest International). At the year end the liabilities covered by the guarantee totalled £33,041,673 (2019: £36,166,667). In the opinion of the Directors, no liability to the Company is expected to arise as a result of this guarantee.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 20. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 December 2020 the Company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Not later than 1 year	13,192 51,015	12,790 50,006
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years Later than 5 years	264,858	272,757
	329,065	335,553

The future minimum lease payments receivable by the Company under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Not later than 1 year	2,767	3,584
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4,172	4,590
Later than 5 years	545	428
	7,484	8,602

#### 21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 1 April 2021 the Company exercised the call option to purchase the remaining 75% of the share capital of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited for £1,807,770, including interest. On the same date the trade and net assets of Milton Park (Dorset) Limited were transferred into the Company, leaving Milton Park (Dorset) Limited dormant.

### 22. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption available in Section 33.1A of FRS 102 whereby it has not disclosed transactions with the ultimate parent company or any wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of the group.

The amount due to and terms with the ultimate parent company are set out in note 15.

In note 16, the 2019 deferred acquisition of joint venture balance of £1,961,000 was payable to Lagan Farms (Dorset) Limited, on or before 31 May 2021. During 2020, the Company made two interim payments totalling £197,000 which is reflected in note 15 as the 2020 deferred acquisition of joint venture balance of £1,764,000. The final payment was made on 1 April 2021.

During the year, transfers of stock were sold to Milton Park (Dorset) Limited for £83,548. Included within trade debtors at the year end is an amount of £91,002 due from Milton Park (Dorset) Limited. Included within trade creditors at the year end is an amount of £22,715 due to Milton Park (Dorset) Limited.

#### 23. ULTIMATE PARENT UNDERTAKING AND CONTROLLING PARTY

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company's ultimate parent company and ultimate controlling party is Blue Diamond Limited, a company registered in Guernsey. This is the largest and smallest group into which the Company's results are consolidated. Copies of Blue Diamond Limited's consolidated financial statements are available from its registered office at Rue du Friquet, Castel, Guernsey, GY5 7SS.

The Company's parent company is Blue Diamond Trading Limited, a company registered in Guernsey.