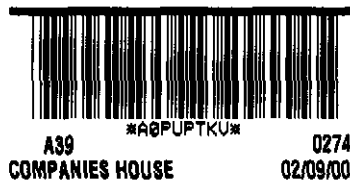


Registered no: 2749300

The Ravenhead Company Limited
Annual report
for the year ended 30 November 1999



The Ravenhead Company Limited

Annual report for the year ended 30 November 1999

	Pages
Directors and advisers	1
Directors' report	2
Report of the auditors	5
Profit and loss account	6
Balance sheets	7 - 8
Notes to the financial statements	9

Directors and advisers

Executive directors

M Zadikyan (Chairman)
J C Dehovre
E Marchand
B Liebin
F Willems

Registered Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers
101 Barbirolli Square
Lower Mosley Street
Manchester
M2 3PW

Secretary and registered office

D A Cooper
P O Box 48
Nuttall Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 3LP

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Plc
53 King Street
Manchester
M60 2LE

Directors' report for the year ended 30 November 1999

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of the group for the year ended 30 November 1999.

Principal activity and review of business

The principal activity of the group continues to be the design, manufacture and sale of glasses and glass tableware.

Group turnover for the year was £20,625,000 (1998: £19,509,000), and the retained profit for the year was £71,000 (1998 loss: £2,417,000). The directors expect the general level of activity to continue and profitability to improve.

Dividends and transfers to reserves

Group results, dividends and recommended transfers to reserves are as follows:

	£'000
Group accumulated deficit at 30 November 1998	(5,955)
Group retained profit for the year	<u>71</u>
Group accumulated deficit at 30 November 1999	(5,884)
No dividend can be paid.	<hr/>

Directors

The directors of the company who served during the year are listed below:

M Zadikyan
F Willems
J C Dehovre (resigned 27 January 2000)
E Marchand (resigned 27 January 2000)
B Liebin (resigned 27 January 2000)

The following companies were appointed directors:

Innotech SA (appointed 27 January 2000)
Sadetam SA (appointed 27 January 2000)
Sparaxis SA (appointed 27 January 2000)

Directors' interests in shares of the company

The directors have no beneficial interests required to be disclosed under Schedule 7 of the Companies Act 1985.

Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that 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 those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 proper accounting records that 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 1985. 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.

Creditor payment policy

The company's current policy concerning the payment of creditors is to pay suppliers in accordance with agreed terms of business. These terms are agreed with suppliers at the outset of each transaction and the company adheres to these terms provided that the supplier meets its obligations.

The number of creditor days taken by the company at the end of the year was 79 days (1998: 60 days).

Employees

The group places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and has continued its previous practice of keeping them informed on matters affecting them as employees and on the various factors affecting the performance of the group. This is achieved through formal and informal meetings. Employee representatives are consulted regularly on a wide range of matters affecting their current and future interests.

Disabled employees

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the group continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the group that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical with that of other employees.

Year 2000 and the EURO

The Year 2000 issue, relating to date sensitive calculations, is one which affects all companies which are reliant on computer based technologies. The group has given high priority to the impact of the millennium and the effect of the Year 2000 date change on the company's ability to maintain its systems and to continue to provide services to customers. Any costs incurred in achieving this were charged to operating costs. These costs were not significant. The company did not note any effect following 31 December 1999.

The directors are investigating the likely impact of the Euro on the company. Their brief is to ensure that the company is fully prepared in readiness for the introduction of the Euro and, in particular, for the business implication of the United Kingdom's potential entry into the EMU.

Refinancing

During 1999, the company repaid the bank loans and overdrafts including the medium term loan. These were replaced with term loans from Cossom BV and financial institutions together with a flexible funding facility. The total funding available as a result of this action exceeds that previously available to the company both in the short and medium term.

Auditors

During the year, Arthur Andersen resigned as auditors and PricewaterhouseCoopers were appointed auditors. A resolution proposing that PricewaterhouseCoopers be reappointed as auditors will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By order of the board



D A Cooper
Company Secretary
26 May 2000

Report of the auditors to the members of The Ravenhead Company Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 6 to 19, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets) and the accounting policies set out on pages 9 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report. As described on page 3, this includes responsibility for preparing the financial statements, in accordance with acceptable United Kingdom accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and our profession's ethical guidance.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom Companies Act. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions is not disclosed.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the group at 30 November 1999 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Manchester
26 May 2000

**Consolidated profit and loss account
for the year ended 30 November 1999**

	Notes	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Continuing operations			
Turnover	2	<u>20,625</u>	<u>19,509</u>
Change in stocks of finished goods and work in progress		(21)	42
Raw materials and consumables		(3,061)	(3,168)
Other external charges		(9,778)	(8,812)
Staff costs	4	(8,354)	(8,481)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		<u>(164)</u>	<u>(1,452)</u>
		<u>(21,378)</u>	<u>(21,871)</u>
Operating loss		(753)	(2,362)
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets	7	<u>1,422</u>	<u>616</u>
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before finance charges		669	(1,746)
Interest payable and similar charges	3	<u>(598)</u>	<u>(671)</u>
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation		71	(2,417)
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	6	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Retained profit/(loss) for the year	16	<u><u>71</u></u>	<u><u>(2,417)</u></u>

The company has no recognised gains and losses other than the profits above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

There is no material difference between the profit on ordinary activities before taxation and the profit for the year stated above, and their historical cost equivalents.

Consolidated balance sheet at 30 November 1999

	Notes	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	9,104	9,915
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Current assets			
Stocks	10	6,206	6,102
Debtors	11	6,468	5,849
Cash at bank and in hand		344	311
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		13,018	12,262
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(10,397)	(15,153)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets		2,621	(2,891)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		11,725	7,024
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(5,957)	(1,393)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets		5,768	5,631
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	14	8,000	8,000
Capital reserve	15	3,586	3,586
Profit and loss account	15	(5,884)	(5,955)
Revaluation reserve	15	66	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Equity shareholders' funds	16	5,768	5,631
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 19 were approved by the board of directors on 26 May 2000 and were signed on its behalf by:

M Zadikyan
Chairman

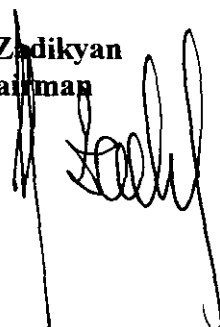



Balance sheet at 30 November 1999

	Notes	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	9,104	9,915
Investments	9	7,000	7,000
		<u>16,104</u>	<u>16,915</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	10	6,206	6,102
Debtors	11	6,569	9,226
Cash at bank and in hand		344	311
		<u>13,119</u>	<u>15,639</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(10,498)</u>	<u>(15,249)</u>
Net current assets		<u>2,621</u>	<u>390</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>18,725</u>	<u>17,305</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	<u>(11,432)</u>	<u>(11,737)</u>
Net assets		<u>7,293</u>	<u>5,568</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	14	8,000	8,000
Profit and loss account	15	(773)	(2,432)
Revaluation reserve	15	66	-
Equity shareholders' funds		<u>7,293</u>	<u>5,568</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 19 were approved by the board of directors on 26 May 2000 and were signed on its behalf by:

M Zadikyan
Chairman




Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 November 1999

1 Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom. A summary of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, is set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. Assets and liabilities are recognised in the financial statements where, as a result of past transactions or events, the group has rights or other access to future economic benefits controlled by the group, or obligations to transfer economic benefits.

Basis of consolidation

The group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of The Ravenhead Company Limited and its subsidiary undertaking. The acquisition method of accounting has been adopted. Under this method, the results of subsidiary undertakings acquired or disposed of in the period are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal. Goodwill arising on consolidation (representing the excess of the fair value of the consideration given over the fair value of the separable net assets acquired) is capitalised and written off over its useful economic life. Any excess of the aggregate of the fair value of the separable net assets acquired over the fair value of the consideration given (negative goodwill) is credited directly to reserves.

In the company's financial statements, the investment in the subsidiary undertaking is stated at cost. Only dividends received and receivable are credited to the company's profit and loss account. Provision is made for impairment.

No profit and loss account is presented for The Ravenhead Company Limited as permitted by section 230 of the Companies Act 1985.

Tangible fixed assets

The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, with the exception of land and buildings which were revalued and stated at valuation on the basis described in note 8.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost, or valuation, of tangible fixed assets less their estimated residual values, on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Freehold buildings	2.5 – 3% per annum
Plant and machinery	5 – 33.3% per annum
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10 – 33.3% per annum

Residual value is calculated on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition. Profits or losses on the disposal of fixed assets are separately disclosed after operating profit.

During the year, the useful economic life of moulds was amended from three years to five years.

Finance and operating leases

Assets subject to finance leases are shown as fixed assets and depreciated over the asset life. The corresponding liability for the capital element is shown as a finance lease creditor, and the interest element is charged against profits over the primary lease period.

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term, even if the payments are not made on such a basis.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost, including appropriate production overheads, and net realisable value.

Government grants

Government grants received in respect of various revenue and capital projects are included within accruals and deferred income and amortised over various periods from the date of receipt. These periods are principally three years and reflect the charging of the related costs, including the expected useful lives of related tangible fixed assets.

Foreign currencies

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded in the local currency at actual exchange rates as of the date of the transaction (or, where appropriate, at the rate of exchange in a related forward exchange contract). Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the period end are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at the period end (or, where appropriate, at the rate of exchange in a related forward exchange contract). Any gain or loss arising from a change in exchange rates subsequent to the date of the transaction is included as an exchange gain or loss in the profit and loss account.

Turnover

Group turnover comprises the value of sales, excluding VAT, intra-group transactions and trade discounts, of goods and services provided in the normal course of business.

Taxation

Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable profits at the current rate.

Deferred taxation (which arises from differences in the timing of the recognition of items, principally depreciation, in the financial statements and by the tax legislation) has been calculated on the liability method. Deferred taxation is provided on timing differences which will probably reverse, at the rates of tax likely to be in force at the time of the reversal. Deferred tax is not provided on timing differences which, in the opinion of the directors, will probably not reverse.

Pension costs

The group provides pensions to the majority of its employees through funded defined benefit pension scheme arrangements based on final pensionable salary. All employees are entitled to become members as soon as they join the group. The assets are held independently of the group in trustee administered funds. Contributions by the group are based upon the results of triennial valuations by a professionally qualified actuary.

The amount charged to the profit and loss account is the estimated regular cost of providing the benefits accrued in the period, adjusted to reflect variations from that cost. The regular cost is calculated so that it represents a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. Variations from regular cost are charged or credited to the profit and loss account over the estimated average remaining working life of scheme members.

Any difference between amounts charged to the profit and loss account and contributions paid is shown as a separately identified liability or asset in the balance sheet.

Cash flow statement

The company has taken advantage of Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (Revised 1996), and has not prepared a consolidated cash flow statement because its ultimate parent company, Societe Regionale D'Investissement de Wallonie SA., incorporated in Belgium, has prepared consolidated financial statements which include the financial statements of the group and which contain a consolidated cash flow statement.

2 Turnover

Contributions to turnover by geographical destination are as follows:

	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
United Kingdom	10,548	10,459
Rest of the World	10,077	9,050
	<u>20,625</u>	<u>19,509</u>

3 Interest payable and similar charges

	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Bank loans and overdrafts	400	570
Inter-company loans	198	82
Exchange loss on retranslation of inter-company loan	-	19
	<u>598</u>	<u>671</u>

4 Employee information

The average monthly number of persons employed by the group during the year was as follows:

	1999 Number	1998 Number
Production	278	270
Sales and distribution	33	61
Administration	35	29
	<u>346</u>	<u>360</u>
	£'000	£'000
Staff costs (for the above persons)		
Wages and salaries	7,610	7,743
Social security costs	699	658
Other pension costs	45	80
	<u>8,354</u>	<u>8,481</u>

Pension costs represent actual amounts paid. The net impact on the profit and loss account with respect to pensions was a credit of £176,000 (see note 19).

The remuneration of the directors was as follows:

	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Directors' emoluments	<u>57</u>	<u>56</u>

No directors were members of company pension schemes.

Emoluments payable to the highest-paid director are as follows:

	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Aggregate emoluments	<u>57</u>	<u>56</u>

5 Profit on ordinary activities before taxation

	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation for the year:		
Owned tangible fixed assets	259	1,438
Leased tangible fixed assets	12	14
Auditors' remuneration for:		
Audit	17	17
Other services	7	7
Government grants amortised	-	(200)
Restatement of prior years depreciation (note 8)	<u>(398)</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Tax on profit on ordinary activities

Due to tax losses arising in the year there is no current year tax charge. At 30 November 1999 the group had tax losses available for carry forward of approximately £6,500,000 (1998: £6,439,000). The deferred tax asset on these losses has not been recognised on the grounds of prudence.

7 Exceptional items reported after operating loss

During the year The Ravenhead Company Limited disposed of fixed assets from continuing operations realising a profit of £1,422,000 (1998: £616,000). The tax impact of these disposals is £Nil due to the availability of tax losses.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £'000	Assets in course of construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 December 1998	4,893	14,613	650	2,580	22,736
Additions	-	782	-	235	1,017
Disposals	(2,414)	-	-	-	(2,414)
Revaluation	66	-	-	-	66
Transfer	456	(456)	-	-	-
At 30 November 1999	3,001	14,939	650	2,815	21,405
Depreciation					
At 1 December 1998	838	11,368	615	-	12,821
Charge for the year	(107)	236	35	-	164
Disposals	(684)	-	-	-	(684)
At 30 November 1999	47	11,604	650	-	12,301
Net book value					
At 30 November 1999	<u>2,954</u>	<u>3,335</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,815</u>	<u>9,104</u>
Net book value					
At 30 November 1998	<u>4,035</u>	<u>3,245</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>2,580</u>	<u>9,915</u>

Freehold land amounting to £1,099,000 (1998: £1,099,000) has not been depreciated.

Net book value of fixed assets includes £76,000 (1998: £88,000) in respect of assets which are subject to finance leases.

A revaluation of all remaining land and buildings was performed on an existing use value basis for balance sheet purposes, by an independent valuer dated 23 March 1999. This resulted in an uplift in the valuation to £3,001,000.

The useful economic life of moulds with a cost of £2,595,000 and accumulated depreciation of £1,946,000 at the beginning of the year was reassessed from 3 to 5 years. The impact of this has been to restate previously charged depreciation of £398,000 through this year's profit and loss account. This treatment has been adopted to ensure future profits are not materially misstated.

9 Fixed asset investments

The following are included in the net book value of fixed asset investments:

Company	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Subsidiary undertaking	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>

Interests in group undertakings

Subsidiary undertaking	Principal activity	Description and proportion of shares held by the company
Ravenhead Limited	Sale of glass tableware	100% ordinary shares

Investment in subsidiary undertaking

	£'000
Cost	
Beginning and end of the year	7,000
Net book value	
At 30 November 1999	7,000

10 Stocks

	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Raw materials and consumables	1,454	1,329
Finished goods and goods for resale	4,752	4,773
	<u>6,206</u>	<u>6,102</u>

11 Debtors

	Group		Company	
	1999 £'000	1998 £'000	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year				
Trade debtors	5,254	4,977	3,890	2,942
Amounts owed by group undertakings	754	22	2,219	5,338
Other debtors	57	778	57	874
Prepayments and accrued income	246	72	246	72
Pension scheme	157	-	157	-
	<u>6,468</u>	<u>5,849</u>	<u>6,569</u>	<u>9,226</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Company	
	1999 £'000	1998 £'000	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Bank loans and overdrafts	3,224	3,570	3,224	3,570
Medium term loan	584	4,250	584	4,250
Trade creditors	1,881	1,802	1,881	1,802
Amounts owed to other group undertakings	1,934	2,665	1,934	2,665
Other creditors:				
Social security and PAYE	171	166	171	166
Value added tax	519	382	620	478
Other creditors	2,009	2,175	2,009	2,175
Pension schemes	31	83	31	83
Finance leases	44	60	44	60
	<u>10,397</u>	<u>15,153</u>	<u>10,498</u>	<u>15,249</u>

The company has granted a fixed and floating charge over its assets to secure the bank overdrafts of £3,224,000 (1998: £3,570,000). During 1999, the company repaid the bank loan, overdrafts and the medium term loan. These were replaced by loans over periods of five and seven years, together with a flexible funding facility.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Company	
	1999 £'000	1998 £'000	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	5,475	10,344
Amounts owed to other group undertakings	3,274	1,393	3,274	1,393
Medium term loan	2,683	-	2,683	-
	<u>5,957</u>	<u>1,393</u>	<u>11,432</u>	<u>11,737</u>

The amounts owed to the subsidiary undertaking are unsecured, non-interest bearing and have no fixed payment date.

Analysis of borrowings

	Group and Company	
	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Amounts payable		
Within one year or on demand	3,808	7,820
Between one and two years	584	-
Between two and five years	2,099	-
	<u>6,495</u>	<u>7,820</u>

14 Called up share capital

	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Authorised		
10,000,000 (1998: 10,000,000) ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
8,000,000 (1998: 8,000,000) ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>

15 Share premium account and reserves

Group

	Revaluation reserve £'000	Share premium account £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Total £'000
At 1 December 1998	-	3,586	(5,955)	(2,369)
Retained profit for the year	-	-	71	71
Revaluation	66	-	-	66
	<u>66</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66</u>
At 30 November 1999	<u>66</u>	<u>3,586</u>	<u>(5,884)</u>	<u>(2,232)</u>

Company

	Revaluation reserve £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Total £'000
At 1 December 1998	-	(2,432)	(2,432)
Retained profit for the year	-	1,659	1,659
Revaluation	66	-	66
	<u>66</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66</u>
At 30 November 1999	<u>66</u>	<u>(773)</u>	<u>(707)</u>

16 Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

	Group		Company	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Retained profit/(loss) for the year	71	(2,417)	1,659	864
	<u>71</u>	<u>(2,417)</u>	<u>1,659</u>	<u>864</u>
Net addition/(reduction) in shareholders' funds	71	(2,417)	1,659	864
Revaluation	66	-	66	-
Opening shareholders' funds	5,631	8,048	5,568	4,704
	<u>5,631</u>	<u>8,048</u>	<u>5,568</u>	<u>4,704</u>
Closing shareholders' funds	<u>5,768</u>	<u>5,631</u>	<u>7,293</u>	<u>5,568</u>

17 Capital commitments

	Group and Company	
	1999	1998
	£'000	£'000
Capital expenditure that has been contracted for but has not been provided for in the financial statements	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Financial commitments

Lease commitments

The group has entered into non-cancellable operating leases in respect of plant and machinery, the payments for which extend over a period of up to eight years, all of which are applicable to the company. The lease agreements provide that the group will pay all insurance, maintenance and repairs. The group may continue, at its option, to use the plant and machinery after the expiration of the initial lease period at a nominal rental.

The minimum annual rentals under the foregoing leases are as follows:

	Group and Company	
	1999 £'000	1998 £'000
Operating leases which expire		
Within one year	29	16
Within two and five years	45	58
After five years	73	71
	147	145
	147	145

During the year the company entered into an agreement to sell and subsequently lease back its major warehouse. The company is now committed to annual rental of £400,000 for a period of 25 years.

19 Pension costs

The group operates defined benefit pension scheme arrangements. The assets are held independently of the group in trustee administered funds.

The pension cost and related provision are assessed in accordance with the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The latest actuarial valuations were at 6 April 1999 and used the projected unit method. The principal actuarial assumptions were an investment return of 7.5% per annum and an increase in pensionable earnings of 4% per annum.

At the date of the latest actuarial valuations, the market value of the assets was £27,088,000 and the actuarial value of the assets was sufficient to cover 112% of the benefits that had accrued to members after allowing for future increases in earnings.

In view of the pension surpluses, reduced contributions are being made until the next actuarial valuations. The current period pension credit of £176,000 (1998: £127,000) represents the regular cost of pensionable payroll less variations from this regular cost arising from the pension surpluses. The surpluses are being spread over the average remaining service lives of the relevant employees.

A balance sheet prepayment of £157,000 (1998: provision of £64,000) has been set up to account for the excess of the accumulated pension cost over the amount funded.

20 Ultimate parent company

The company is a subsidiary undertaking of Societe Regionale D'Investissement de Wallonie SA, incorporated in Belgium.

The largest and smallest group of which The Ravenhead Company Limited is a member and for which group financial statements are drawn up is that headed by Societe Regionale D'Investissement de Wallone SA, incorporated in Belgium, whose principal place of business is Avenue Maurice Destenay 13, 4000 Liege, Belgium.

In preparing these financial statements, the company has taken advantage of the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard No 8 and has not disclosed transactions with the ultimate parent company, Societe Regionale D'Investissement de Wallone SA, or other group undertakings.

21 Financial support

The Board of Durobor SA, the immediate parent company, has indicated that they will provide or cause to be provided adequate financial support to enable the company to continue trading for the foreseeable future and to settle its liabilities as they fall due.