



## BELARUSSIAN NEWS

JANUARY  
2021



At the time of preparing this latest news it is -22% in Belarus. The groups continue to meet up.

They had a successful meeting via Zoom for the National Board in December when roles were confirmed for the next 3 years: Tatyana (Chairman) said in her message to all members of ABG:

*"This year hasn't been easy for many, we've had to learn how to adjust to external circumstances that aren't up to us, but that's what made us move on no matter what! Many have learned something new and got closer to online platforms - that's a plus 😊 Our rare meetings "live" turned out to be many. But I know for sure, the Guidean campfire that burns in our hearts never went out"*

The titles of the roles of people we know on the National Council are: Olga, Project Commissioner, Julia, Main Commissioner, Anya, Commissioner on information and commission with public (I think this is PR). Natasha is the Commissioner for Minsk Region.

Groups across the Country managed to hold their annual event of passing on the Bethlehem fire which takes place in their Churches. Guides and Scouts from different Countries traditionally pass it on in the church and onward to orphanages and hospitals as a symbol of warmth, tranquillity and faith. They weren't sure this would be able to happen this year but thanks to Polish Scouts, it did.



Most of our Belarussian friends celebrate Christmas on January 7<sup>th</sup>, and parcels sent out arrived in time, Anya acknowledging the parcel with:

*Thank you for nice box. At Christmas day it was really in time to receive congratulations. Today we were courageous in a long line at the post office!*

– it included the Paddington Bear Calendar which they use in their group to learn the names of the Months in English!

New Year is celebrated more than Christmas and on New Year's Eve Anya dressed as the Snow Princess and the children had a party, played games, provided their own musical entertainment and received a small gift.



Since meeting again in January the Paddington Bear group have celebrated **WORLD BEATLES DAY** as it was on January 16<sup>th</sup> 1957 that the Cavern Club in Liverpool opened. Mention was also made on their Paddington Group Facebook site that Michael Bond had his birthday on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Surprising how we learn about our own culture through someone else!

New Year greetings were sent out and in return a message was received back to say how much the Association of Belarussian Guides appreciate our support.

*Robbie Hill*