



BELARUSSIAN NEWS



All reading this latest Belarussian News will be aware of how our Union Flag came to be made up so you might like to know something about the Belarussian flags:



Most of you will have seen news on TV and newspapers the pictures of Belarussian people waving the White-Red-White Belarussian flag . This flag was used by the **BELARUSSIAN DEMOCRATIC REPLUBLIC** in 1918, before Belarus became a Soviet republic

The colours are based on those of the traditional coat of arms of Belarussian lands and had a white horseman on a red background. This was also the official emblem of the **BELARUSSIAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** in 1918 and the



Republic of Belarus from 1991 (when Belarus regained its independence from the Soviet Union) The white-red-white flag has been used as a symbol of the opposition to the regime of the current President ever since he had it replaced in 1995 on his election to President. It is not officially banned from public useage but is treated by the current authorities as an *unregistered symbol* which means that for demonstrators using the flag it could lead to arrests, confiscation of the flag and a fine.



The Belarussian flag as we have come to know it was introduced by the current President in 1995 after his election. While there is no official interpretation for the colours, the President said the **red** represents Freedom and the sacrifice of the nations forebears and the **green** represents Life. The pattern on

the left-hand side derived from local plants and flowers is a traditional ornament commonly used in garments such as the *ruchnick*, a woven cloth used in religious ceremonies and funerals.

Our Belarussian Guiding friends, and their families, know that we think of them often during these troubled times for them and share their with for a peaceful solution.