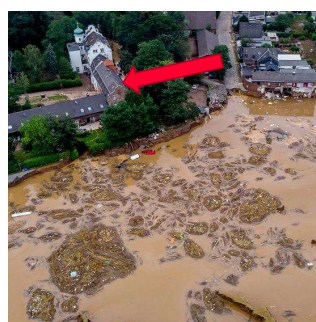


Familienverband Thelen - Herhahn - Katterbach



Dear relatives near and far,

Once again a year is coming to an end, another strange year. Corona has affected us all, changed us, and has us firmly in its grip. It has thrown many of our plans out of whack, and no one knows when and how things will get back to normal. We will probably have to live with Covid 19 in the future. Unfortunately, our Active Day in Bad Neuenahr, which especially our young family members had been looking forward to, had to be cancelled this year as well. After the cancellation due to Corona, the region around Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler was hit by another very severe event. The unexpected flood catastrophe of the river Ahr in July devastated wide areas on the total length of the river of 40 km partly totally. It became a raging river during the night, destroying entire villages, claiming many lives and bringing unimaginable suffering to countless people. Unbelievable mountains of garbage were created, which in the district of Ahrweiler had grown to 300,000 tons of bulky waste, a quantity that would otherwise have been created in 40 years. Not only the region of the Ahr was affected, but also areas around Bad Münstereifel, Euskirchen and the entire Erft valley. Besides some members of the association and the board, with Berthold Schulte and Katharina Thelen being the most affected, the seat of our forefathers in Blessem was also touched. The farm buildings were largely spared, but the entire area was very badly flooded. The photos clearly show the destruction near the castle.



Burg Blessem

Castle Bodenheim remained without damage and the people there were more than happy about this circumstance. We wish all those affected a lot of strength for the coming months and years and energetic support from all authorities and institutions.

Despite the current situation, we have planned a new date for a family day next year. It would be Sunday, July 3, 2022. The day is to be held as a summer gathering possibly in Dom-Esch. It should bring together all who want to actively spend time together as a family. A separate invitation will be sent out in the new year.

Do not forget ! Save the date : July 3, 2022 - Family Day

We will not issue a family booklet to you again this year, because the activities were limited by Corona and also because there are no new results from the family research. Berthold is now retired, but was very much affected by the flood. We hope to report more in the next issue.

However, the family reports are to be followed up and the request goes out to you to report any important events from your family to us.

Our website : www.familienverband-thk.de is regularly maintained by Claudia's son, Calvino, and should become a mandatory site for every family member.

We wish you now, in the name of the whole board, a good end of the difficult year 2021. We wish you and us a blessed Christmas, a Happy New Year and more normality in a Good, New Year 2022.

In the name of the board
Karl Thelen