



# Thornham

[www.thornham.org.uk](http://www.thornham.org.uk)

11 May 2009

In the summer of 2008, Trustees from the Field Centre put together a development plan for the trust which was an attempt to move their work forward, achieve financial stability and help the trust work cohesively. Central to this was the idea that the residential accommodation at Thornham be re-vamped with the poor portacabin being replaced with a new building and planning permission was sought. In the six month period during which this preparatory work was being under taken the country entered a financial crisis. On top of this the Trust faced up to the fact that they have been working for many years with an underlying deficit. With resources very low, costs rising steeply, the portacabin deteriorating and money for major charity capital projects being thin on the ground the trustees have had to act.

Our decision is to close the school environmental education programme at Thornham from the end of the summer term 2009.

After 23 years the Trustees have taken this decision with great sadness but they have decided that they have no reasonable alternative. Incredible efforts by fantastic staff have managed to stave off insolvency for a number of years and the trustees cannot express their gratitude enough. We believe that environmental education at Thornham has been valued by children and schools and has excellent potential. The Trustees hope that, with time to devise an improved business model, a new consortium of partners might be able to revive the environmental education work.

**I would emphasise that this decision in no way affects Thornham Walks, the Walled Garden Horticultural Project or any other project at Thornham**

I am sorry to have to write to you with this news and thank you for your support.

Andrea Hanks

Chair, Thornham Field Centre Trust

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*Thornham Walks is managed in partnership with Mid Suffolk District Council, the Thornham Estate and Suffolk County Council  
Thornham Field Centre and Thornham Walled Garden are part of the Thornham Field Centre Trust, registered charity number 292229*