

A building for 'the Left'?

For 11 years we were told by our manager, the self proclaimed 'socialist' Tony Greenstein, that our centre, the 'Unemployed Centre' in Hollingdean, was 'poor'. We worked in conditions that would horrify anyone, let alone a socialist: chairs from skips, illegal electric, loose carpets, collapsing ceilings etc. If we complained about the state of the centre we were told to redecorate it ourselves, in the weekend, as part of our voluntary work.

Our H&S was a joke because our UNISON workplace rep was... *Tony Greenstein!*

But we were proud of what we were doing, and our centre was needed by the weakest in society... Meanwhile Greenstein set aside half a million pounds. Only towards the end of 2011, facing the risk of an investigation, he revealed the existence of this fund and said it was for our 'new building'.

He misled us, making us believe that our lease had expired and that we were, as he put it, 'effectively squatting' so I was happy that we would have a new building. But there would be no new building. By 2013 Greenstein had already tried to undermine our fundraiser, diverting £10,000 of

donations she had managed to obtain, away from our accounts, in the attempt to close us down.

In July 2014 Greenstein, and other three managers told us that they had secretly moved the half a million pounds into a new private trust, controlled by themselves. They refused to tell us the name of the trust, then they resigned and left the centre. They said that they left because we 'shouted at them', and that we were 'rightwing', 'racists', etc. and that the 'new building' they would buy was not for our charities, but 'for the left' (sic).

Later, Greenstein wrote on FB that all the secrecy was in order to avoid investigations from the Charity Commission and other state agencies. What happened to the money is still a secret, even for 'the Brighton left' - whom some of us belong.

Please note: *I am not speaking about money.* I am speaking about the way voluntary work has been exploited and how we have been treated for years. An electrician told us that we could have been electrocuted. My backache which I developed from crap chairs is congealed in that heap of cursed money. It's just disgusting.

