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**Paper Title:** Fanning the Spark of History through Activating the Memory of the Commons: The Future in the Now of the UK Social Centre Movement

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**Fanning the Spark of History through Activating the  
Memory of the Commons:  
The Future in the Now of the UK Social Centre Movement**

This paper will use the writings of Ernst Bloch and Walter Benjamin to describe the temporal link between the UK social centre movement, and that of the defence of the commons.

In today's vocabulary, the fight for the protection of the commons takes its form through the movements of retreat and those of liberation of the Northern and Southern hemispheres respectively. What the social centre movement, as part of the squatting movement at large, attempts to do, is step back from the enclosed city-scapes of postmodern urbanity, and create zones of non-compliance.

This shall be argued as incorporating the dimensions of past, present and future within the resistances of the squatting movement and that of the commons. The commons are reawakened through the memory of the past, and stands for the past itself. As there are past and future, the two combine through the processes of memory and hope. The memory of the commons, combined with the structuring fractals of liminal innovation, act as past and future.