



**KOESTLER AWARDS  
STORIES POEMS  
AND ART**

**MIDNIGHT  
HOLLOWAY  
WRITERS**

**INTERVIEW  
MARK JOHNSON**

**BROKEN BOTTLE  
FELTHAM WRITERS**

**PEOPLE WORTH  
KNOWING ABOUT  
EXPANDED**

# NOT SHUT UP

*TG 09*

**£3.50**  
Free to people in prison  
and other secure settings

## Oh, do shut up!

My mind is awash with  
Wants and needs and  
The occasional voice from  
Within, which can be easily?  
Identified? As my greed,  
I quietly hear myself  
Say... Oh, do shut up!

I roam around looking up and  
Down, all around as far as my  
Eyes can see my physical  
Prison supposedly cat C, more  
Like cat B and I wonder when  
I will be set free and I quietly  
Say... Oh do shut up!

I take exercise and survey the skies  
As I walk by the usual guys and we  
Avert eyes and pleasantly exchange  
The same old "hi's and byes" from  
The previous day. As I part and continue  
On I will the time away and mutter  
To myself in so far as to  
Say... Oh do shut up!

I go in from my walk and hear some  
More of the usual talk mostly of  
Tariff and parole and other such  
Droll topics that go round and round  
With each and every day spent  
Staring through bars and trying to  
To repair my scars, piteous moments  
When I verbally  
Say... Oh do shut up!

I slowly realise that there are many  
Things I still crave, things I must see  
And do, all must be done before  
I reach my grave.  
On each and every morning after  
My stretching and yawning I embrace  
A need to speak, a need to be heard  
And decide that I must NOT SHUT UP!

*Andy  
Erlestoke*

**NOT  
SHUT  
UP**



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