Labels are for parcels

By Robert Punton

People love to land labels on folk
Labels are for parcels not people
We should not be
Written on, then put on a shelf
Until you remember
To look for us

Society send them into specially selected silos
Where they think they can be controlled
Put them with people seen
This smack of institutionalisation
This attempt at ghettoization
Cannot be tolerated
We must not allow it to continue
I/we will not be labelled no more
I/we have had enough of that

I am not saying what we are isn’t important
It helps us discover who we are
Who we may want to be tomorrow
It cannot be used to decide
Where we sit in society
What we do in our communities
We all belong to the one race
Regards of how we look or speak
Have the right to be treated fairly

I will not be silenced
The only box I will
Agree to enter
Is the box they’ll bury me in
The only label I’ll wear
Is the plaque
On that box
Bearing my name

Until that day does not dawn for me
I will continue to strive
To live, my life, my way
Working to a better life
For all our citizens