

## Ode to Countdown (1)

I love those winter afternoons  
When it's dark at half-past four  
And I sneak in from the garden  
And gently close the door.  
If you should wonder why  
I'll endeavour to explain,  
I like to rest my muscles  
And exercise my brain  
'Cos life would be unbearable  
Without my daily fix  
Of that game of words and numbers  
And those awful puns of Dick's <sup>1</sup>  
In summer it is different,  
I seldom see it live  
As I'm working in the garden  
Until tea is served at five.  
It is on such occasions  
The video comes in to play  
To record my favourite programme  
For later on that day  
Which is often after midnight  
When my brain is going numb  
And I'm pushed to make a decent word  
Or solve a simple sum.  
So welcome back to winter.  
Today I was in heaven  
When within the thirty seconds  
I got the nine seven seven!  
So why with sudden urge  
To burst out into rhyme  
As Carol <sup>2</sup> also solved it  
- BUT NOT WITHIN THE TIME!

<sup>1</sup> *Richard Whiteley, OBE, DL (28 December 1943 – 26 June 2005) The original host of the television programme Countdown*

<sup>2</sup> *Carol Vorderman The Cambridge engineering graduate spent 26 years as the numbers whizz on Countdown.*