



*Presented by the Lords  
Commissioners of the Admiralty  
to the Civil Parish of  
Hawksworth  
to commemorate the adoption of  
H.M.S. Snapdragon  
during Warship Week February 1942*



## The Mystery Letter

The envelope was addressed to The Town Hall, Hawksworth and <sup>was</sup> brightly adorned with naval insignia. What could it contain?

Slitting it open, the Parish Chairman found a delightful letter from one of the crew of HMS Snapdragon, the corvette which Hawksworth had adopted during Warship Week in February 1942. On behalf of himself and his surviving shipmates he was writing to ask whether we could tell them anything about events during that week. Can anyone help? So far we have found nobody who can remember any ceremony. All we have is the certificate commemorating the adoption.

Snapdragon was a corvette of the Flower Class sister to Petunia, Orchis, Snowdrop, Honeysuckle.... Like Compass Rose in 'The Cruel Sea' she was given the task of escorting convoys across the perilous wartime seas. For two years, from 1940 to 1942, she did this with quiet distinction.

Her initiation was in the waters off the East Coast, where she watched over convoys on the anti-invasion patrol. Then she was sent to the Eastern Mediterranean and <sup>the</sup> Near East, where she had a varied experience. In April 1942, for example, she was assigned to the Tobruk run to protect the convoys supporting General Montgomery's Eighth Army, which had ~~been~~ relieved Tobruk and was advancing into Libya.

In such a dangerous world her life was short. On 19th December 1942, while escorting a convoy along the coast of Libya to Benghazi, she was bombed six miles from her destination. Within three minutes she had sunk. Sixty survivors were picked up including all the officers, though the Commanding Officer died later

For  
ms name

of his wounds.

HMS Snapdragon was awarded battle honours for her services in Libya in 1942.

Now, more than fifty years later, a letter has come from one of the survivors, writing about the village which adopted his ship so long ago.