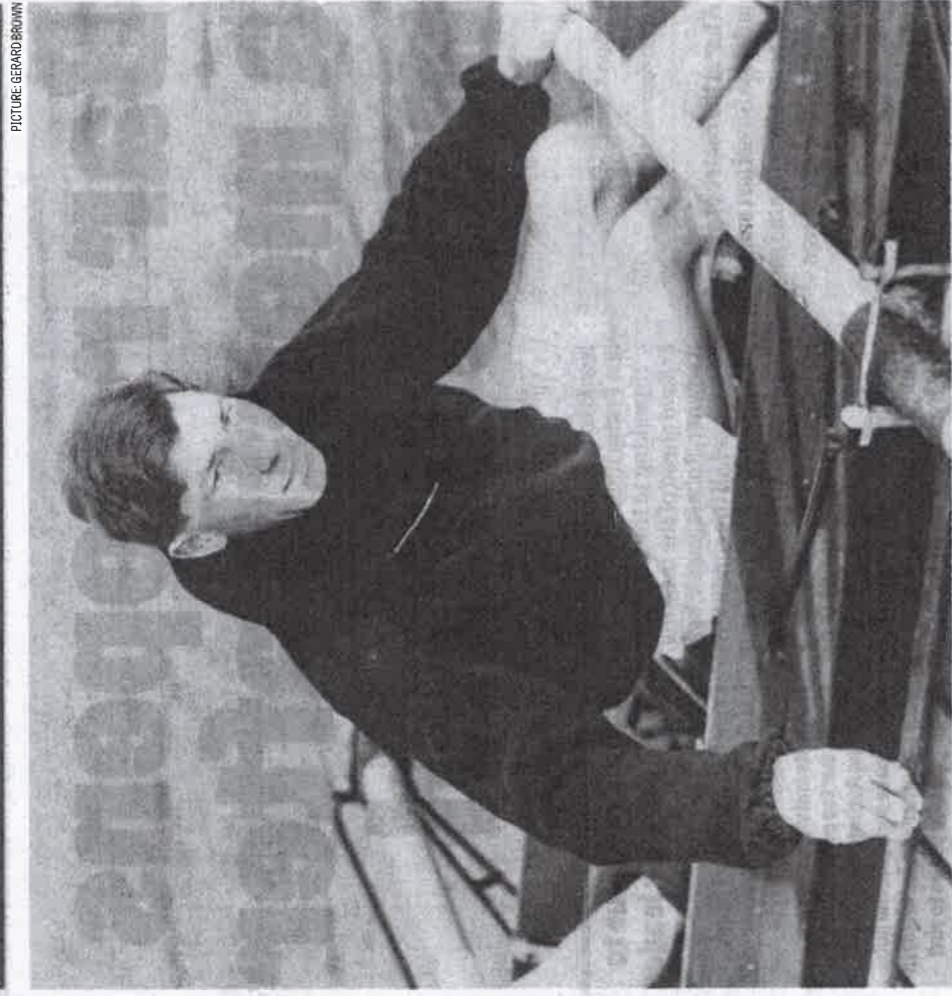


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PICTURE: GERARD BROWN

Christopher Davidge competed as a rower in three Olympic Games and was a former High Sheriff of Northamptonshire

# Tributes paid to three-times Olympic rower

By **FRANCESCA GOSLING**  
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**Former High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and three-times Olympic rower, Christopher Davidge, has died aged 85.**

Born and raised in Northampton, Christopher Guy Vere Davidge lived with his wife, Jill, in Little Houghton before he passed away on December 22, 2014.

He served the town in many ways, including acting for a decade as the vice president at St Andrew's Hospital, following previous generations of family members, some of who helped found the mental health hospital.

He was also a chairman of governors at Three Shires Hospital, which he co-founded, and chairman of trustees as the University of Northampton.

In 1988, Mr Davidge acted as High Sheriff for Northamptonshire, following in the footsteps of his father, Vere, in 1950.

Best known for his commit-

ment to rowing, he competed for Great Britain during the Olympics in 1952, 1956 and 1960, and won Silver Goblets at the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta on three occasions.

In a letter of condolence to Mrs Davidge – one of about 200 so far – Lord Sebastian Coe, chairman of the British Olympic Association, wrote: "I don't need to say what an extraordinary inspiration and role model he was to so many across all sport."

"His wonderful achievements were a credit to him and to the country."

The former Oxford University student competed in the famous Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race three times, including in 1951 when the

Oxford boat sank and in 1952 when his crew won by a length in a snowstorm.

Mrs Davidge said her husband was very highly regarded among the rowing community and she has had a personal visit from Sir Steve Redgrave since Mr Davidge's death.

Mrs Davidge said: "Most people who met him would agree he was a very nice person. To me, as a husband, he was splendid."

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**Achievements were a credit to him and to his country**

**A 'great oarsman and servant of the sport', says UK rowing group**

●● British Rowing described Mr Davidge as a "great oarsman and servant of the sport" for more than 60 years. He became chairman of the Regattas Commission for world rowing body FISA, vice president of the British Olympic

Association and Steward of the Henley Regatta. While president of the Amateur Rowing Association, he was appointed honorary life president and in 1973 received a Medal of Honour for outstanding service to the sport.