

NATALIE SETS HER SIGHTS ON THE OLYMPICS!

Natalie Gittins of Simons Lane, Shipton under Wychwood, is an outstanding young gymnast who at 10 years old has shown remarkable dedication to her sport.

During 1995, Natalie won all County competitions and was the highest scoring gymnast from the Southern Region at the National Age Group Championships. She also had the privilege of representing Southern Region at the Camberley International event, competing against gymnasts from all over the world.



In recognition of her achievements, Natalie has been selected for the Under 12 British Women's National Squad. **She is the first gymnast from Oxfordshire ever to have gained a place in this Squad.** Her programme for 1996 includes high profile competitions such as the National Age Group Championships and The junior British Championships, for which she has already qualified.

Natalie is totally dedicated and clearly has her sights set on representing her country and participating in the Olympic Games. She travels one hundred miles per day in order to train at the Lynx Gymnastics Club in Aylesbury, six days per week! In addition to this, she attends squad training sessions all over England. Last year she trained in America with Bela Karolyi (coached Nadia Comaneci and the US Olympic team) and has also received specialist training in Canada. During these summer holidays, she will be training with the Moscow Dynamo Club in Russia who have produced many Olympic champions.

Obviously, this level of achievement requires enormous commitment and financial support, for which Mum and Dad are wholly responsible. Natalie does receive some support from the WODC Sports Council, but if any local companies are interested in following her career, Cherie and Roger Gittins would be very pleased to hear from them! Every little bit helps!

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