Dolly's 'little dream' helps young readers



In 2010 Cadwyn set up Wales' first Imagination Library.

The Imagination Library is a child literacy programme that was originally established by Dolly Parton in her hometown of Tennessee.

The programme was set up to improve child literacy skills by providing a free age-appropriate book, for all children who have been registered, every month up until their fifth birthday.

The programme is open to children of tenants, staff and board members and so far over 70 children have been registered to receive their free books.

Adelle Willis, a Cadwyn tenant whose children have benefitted from the programme commented: 'The Imagination library is just an amazing project! It's a fantastic way of encouraging reading together and there is nothing else like this around. We all look forward to receiving our new book to sit down with the baby and its great because it even encourages my other children to sit and read to the little one too.'



To help fund the programme, Cadwyn staff have taken part in a number of fundraising activities and have recently made Imagination Library the charity of the year. Last year over £1000 was raised through a football competition involving staff, tenants, other housing associations and contractors.

Leynie Meagher, a member of staff at Cadywn who has registered her children on the programme said: 'I'm so glad that Cadwyn have taken part in the Imagination Library – it's a fab benefit for employees and a way of giving back to the Cadwyn community. My children absolutely love receiving the books, it's like having a birthday every month! We love reading together anyway but this gives us even more reason.'

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