

## BRITAIN

### Cornish resurgence

There is *konar* (fury) growing in southwest England over a government decision to cut \$200,000-a-year funding for *Kernewek*, the Cornish language.

Over 10,200 people have signed a petition calling for the funding to be reinstated and campaigners are considering going to the UN Court of Human Rights if the government does not give an adequate response.

The Cornish are an officially recognized national minority. Although only around 600 people speak Cornish as their main language, many see it as a vital part of their identity.

‘It gives a cultural connection that’s really important,’ says Loveday Jenkin, chair of *Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek*, the Cornish Language Fellowship.

‘Every day you’re looking at place names and family names that are in the language. If you know what they mean then you can understand more about the land in which you are.’

The campaign to protect *Kernewek* has attracted wide support, including from indigenous language groups in other Celtic nations such as Wales and Scotland. ‘Cornish has never had a higher profile,’ explains Jenkin.

In May, the Kelly’s of Cornwall ice cream brand aired the first Cornish language national television advert. It also published a free online phrase book including the useful expression ‘*Bydh war! Yma golan yn ogas!*’, which means: ‘Watch out! There’s a seagull about!’ ■

**Amy Hall**