

Incurable Optimism

**Motor neurone disease (MND)
is incurable
but so is our optimism**

Incurable Optimism

Raising awareness of MND

The challenge:

How do you make a disease that affects 5000 people relevant to the general population?

Incurable Optimism

Taking a different approach:

This time rather than solely focus on the cruel nature of MND we wanted to highlight the amazing and positive spirit of the MND community and how it is this spirit that keeps us fighting the disease.

Meet Patrick the Optimist

“I know that through optimism we will find the cure for MND. To do this we need to raise awareness and raise more money for research.”

Patrick Joyce



Patrick's 100 Portraits Challenge

Patrick set himself a challenge of painting the portraits of 100 incurable optimists before he dies.

Each has a story to tell and without question each one is an incurable optimist.



Patrick the Optimist

“I started this 100 portraits project in the hope that I could show that behind the horrible statistics there are people fighting to stop this disease; people giving up their lives to care for the sufferers; and people living with it, with dignity, fortitude and a sense of humour.

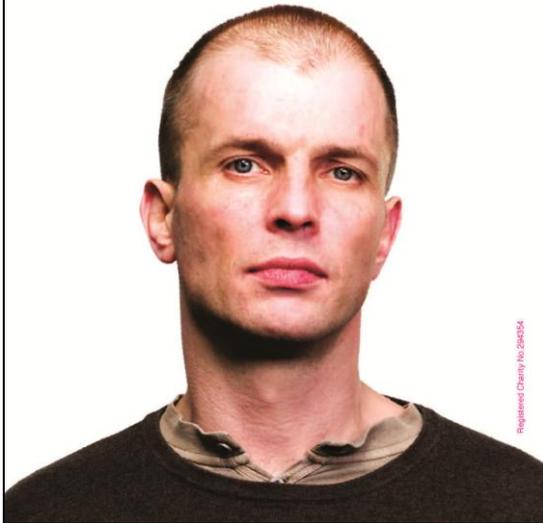
“I want to tell their stories and through the telling, inspire more people to help us.”

Patrick Joyce

Press advert

**I'LL BE DEAD
WITHIN MONTHS.
SO WHY AM I
INCURABLY
OPTIMISTIC?**

patricktheoptimist.org



Registered Charity No. 264354

What's Harriet got that other hens haven't?



Shell-shocked? Harriet the hen

By Andrew Levy

AFTER producing one world-record-breaking egg, Harriet the hen was probably entitled to a rest. But just days later, her owner was stunned to find an even bigger offering in her nest.

Now, Tony Barbotell is waiting to see if the six-month-old bird will be making a regular habit of it - or whether she simply beat the odds twice and will now lapse back into normal laying duties.

Mr and Mrs Barbotell went out there to the farm and found the second egg. He comes back and says "Gosh, what? Five egg another one!" said Mr Barbotell, 64, a food driver from



Another cracking effort: The new egg, left, across from the previous offering which is 4.5 inches long

Rastwood, near Southend.

"Lucky, I kept the first one or I don't think anyone would believe she laid two. It's certainly the same length but it is even bigger across. It's Harriet's another whopper!"

The first egg, which was laid on June 6, was 4.5 inches long with a 3-inch circumference - both measurements half an inch longer than

Blunders at E.coli petting farm

DELAYS in responding to an E.coli outbreak on a farm were unacceptable and led to scores of children contracting the disease, an investigation has ruled.

A report into the catalogue of errors behind Britain's biggest farm outbreak of the bug said that public safety had been "impaired".

Ninety-three people - including 76 children under 16 - caught it, but 115 during the outbreak at Godstone Farm in Surrey last August bank holiday. Twenty-seven were admitted to hospital. Some of the children suffered permanent kidney damage and may need transplants.

An inquiry organized by the Health Protection Agency found staff shortages contributed to delays in the farm being closed.

Health officials knew of up to four cases of the bug last week but allowed the farm to stay open. It said shutting the farm - or just the barn found to be the source of the bug - could have saved a number of cases to just 33, the report explained.

The investigation, led by George Otter, spokesperson of infectious diseases at St George's, treated the bug to avoid it spreading to animals, which changed often enough.

Godstone Farm closed on September 12 - though a month after the outbreak. The HPA has acted more quickly and has pledged to help implement the report's recommendations.

Police swoop on school in 'gun threat'

ARMED police were sent to a British school after the FBI found an online threat that a shooting was planned.

Investigators raised the alarm after spotting a photo of a youth brandishing a gun while holding up a menacing hand-written warning.

Hours later more than 1,000 frightened students at St Anne's Catholic Technology College in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, were ordered to stay indoors while police marksmen surrounded the site.

Officers entered the school with a photo, asking teachers if they could identify the individual in it. A 10-year-old thought to be a former pupil was later arrested in a police raid in which imitation weapons as well as a computer were recovered. He was released on bail.

The online note read: "Tomorrow last day of school. We gonna go up the hills and leave this world." It ended with the next day's date and the school's name.

The message is thought to have been picked by FBI software that automatically searches for suspicious internet postings.

It was passed to UK police in the early hours of last Friday. Some parents are angry that the school wasn't closed before pupils arrived that day.

a.levy@dailymail.co.uk

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I'LL BE DEAD WITHIN MONTHS. SO WHY AM I INCURABLY OPTIMISTIC?

patricktheoptimist.org



Billboard posters



Billboard posters

**ONLY MONTHS TO LIVE.
100 PORTRAITS TO PAINT.**

"I'M PATRICK AND I'M AN ARTIST. SOON I WILL LOSE THE ABILITY TO PAINT FOREVER THANKS TO MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE. BUT I AM DETERMINED TO CREATE 100 PORTRAITS IN WHAT TIME I'VE GOT LEFT, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF MND AND HELP FIND A CURE." WILL HE MAKE IT? IS HE ANY GOOD? BRUSH UP ON PATRICK'S ART AT PATRICKTHEOPTIMIST.ORG

mnda
motor neurone disease
association

patricktheoptimist.org

Tube poster



Patrick's blogsite

Patrick the incurable optimist - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by MND Association

http://patricktheoptimist.org/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Patrick the incurable optimist

PATRICK the incurable optimist

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[Why I'm an incurable optimist](#) \ [100 portraits](#) \ [Do something today](#) \ [Patrick's gallery](#) \ [My blog](#) \ [Donate](#)

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Incurable optimists

 **louisecoxon_MND:** Our latest #MND Association researcher with #incurableoptimism - fab portrait which really sums up Ammar - a great man <http://tiny.cc/jn9sr>

mndresearch: Feeling #incurableoptimism today as it's 15 days until the symposium on ALS/MND begins! #alsymp : <http://t.co/X1xOUcW KJ>

PP **PootlePress:** RT @taryn_mnd: a special #followfriday mention for @patrickoptimist #incurableoptimism »

taryn_mnd: RT @melbarry_mnd: watch this brill film that shows the making @patrickoptimist portraits

Why I'm an incurable optimist

I have motor neurone disease (MND). I'm gradually losing the ability to walk, talk, eat and breathe. I won't see my daughter go to primary school and she won't remember me. I am dying – MND is killing me.

I'm determined to use what's left of my life and my diminishing artistic skill to encourage others to do something optimistic every day. MND may be incurable but I am an incurable optimist. I know that through optimism we will find the cure to MND.

Take a look to see what I'm doing and see how you can get involved to help others with MND and support the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association

[Edit this entry.](#)

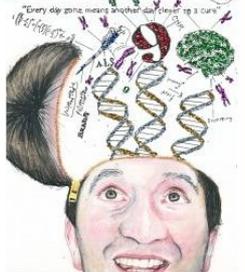
Read my blog

Making Tina Fay

This is Tina Fay being drawn...

Click image to see Patrick's Portraits

"Every dip gene, makes another dip, creating a cure"



'Sickeningly talented' someone said to me about Ammar. A world class MND research scientist, making discoveries hand over fist about the genetic basis of MND - he's a genius, and he's our genius.

Incurable Optimism: 100 Portraits



0:00 / 4:12

[See the rest of my films](#)

Done

Internet 100%

Facebook

The screenshot shows a Facebook profile page for 'Patrick the Optimist' viewed in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.facebook.com/patricktheoptimist'. The page features a profile picture of a man with a shaved head wearing a striped sweater. The main content area displays a post from 'Patrick the Optimist' with the text: 'We're finally ready. And the winner is..... Caroline Cooper. A worthy winner, here's her website, http://www.carolinecooper.me.uk/aboutcaroline.html 3 hours ago clear'. Below the post are several comments from other users, including 'Patrick the Optimist' and 'Mary Hossack'. The left sidebar contains a bio: 'I am a writer, an inventor, an artist and an amateur neurologist. I am a husband and father. I have motor neurone disease and I'm proud to be an incurable optimist.' and an 'Information' section stating the page was founded in June 2010. The right sidebar has a 'Get More Connections' advertisement. The bottom of the browser window shows the system tray with the date 'Done', the word 'Internet', and a 100% zoom level.

Twitter

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Twitter profile of Patrick Joyce (@patrickoptimist). The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://twitter.com/patrickoptimist>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The browser's toolbar shows various icons for navigation and search. The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates the connection is to the Internet and the page is zoomed to 100%.

The Twitter profile page features a blue header with the Twitter logo and navigation links: Home, Profile, Find People, Settings, Help, and Sign out. The profile information includes:

- Name:** Patrick Joyce
- Location:** Wells, Somerset
- Web:** <http://www.patric...>
- Bio:** I am a writer, an inventor, an artist and an amateur neurologist. I am a husband and a father. I have motor neurone disease and I am proud to be an optimist.
- Stats:** 14 following, 803 followers, 28 listed
- Tweets:** 441
- Favorites:** (link)
- Following:** (list of profile pictures)
- More like patrickoptimist:** sarahzekeiel, Sarah Ezekiel (Follow)
- RSS feed:** RSS feed of patrickoptimist's tweets

The main content area shows a tweet from Patrick Joyce:

That's you! [Lists](#)

We're finally ready. And the winner is..... Caroline Cooper. A worthy winner, here's her website,.... <http://fb.me/OLVFAu3G>

about 2 hours ago via Facebook

My helper is writing out all the nominations on bits of paper, and we are going to draw out of a hat. That way the... <http://fb.me/GcUEwsmO>

about 3 hours ago via Facebook

It is time to get some more people on the shortlist. I've been looking at the nominations and am torn. I've chosen... <http://fb.me/yJ5x9OmA>

about 3 hours ago via Facebook

I've had the electrician here all day, sorting out some wiring for my new computer. I was all excited, then I... <http://fb.me/PjXkib5c>

about 18 hours ago via Facebook

I've had a brilliant idea for Pauline's portrait, but there might be a slight delay, as I need her to do a new... <http://fb.me/ZYwLATI>

1:52 PM Nov 27th via Facebook

Here is Ammar. all finished. The scanner doesn't really do justice to the glitter. Never before has there been a... <http://fb.me/wBkNCCYe>

11:26 AM Nov 27th via Facebook

HGV lorry



Patrick's contact cards



News coverage

BBC

itv



THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Mail
ON SUNDAY

THE Sun

THE BIG ISSUE

DAILY EXPRESS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Spreading an international movement of incurable optimism

Website has been viewed in over 100 countries

- 1. UK**
- 2. US**
- 3. Ireland**
- 4. Australia**
- 5. Spain**
- 6. Canada**
- 7. Brazil**
- 8. France**
- 9. Italy**
- 10. Germany**

Spreading an international movement of incurable optimism

- Find your own incurable optimist
- Nominate your incurable optimist
- Hold an exhibition of Patrick's portraits to help spread our message of optimism
- Create a world-wide incurable optimism day?

Find out more

- Log onto www.patricktheoptimist.org
- Follow **patrickoptimist** on Twitter
- Follow **Patrick the Optimist** on Facebook
- **Do something optimistic today.** Support our fight against MND.

