

# Photographing Invisible Illness

[www.rebeccawilburphotography.com/photographing-invisible-illness](http://www.rebeccawilburphotography.com/photographing-invisible-illness)

What is 'invisible illness'? And why do I want to photograph people who have it?...

Over the next two years I will be embarking on an interesting new project on the subject of 'invisible illness' and how certain illnesses are misunderstood and under-recognised within society because they are not outwardly visible. I hope to raise awareness and empower sufferers of invisible illness.

As someone with an auto immune condition I understand the challenges this presents and how hard it can be to be understood. I will be looking for people to photograph in the West Cornwall area who consider themselves to have an invisible illness and would be willing to explore that in a visual way.

I'm hoping to represent as many 'invisible illnesses' as I can to help raise awareness of conditions that many people don't understand because they are not always visible. These can be either in portrait form if you would be happy to be photographed, or I can represent your condition using the words that you would use to describe it.



Someone recently described their condition to me as feeling like they have a head full of spaghetti, and someone else said they feel like a sack of potatoes! They sound silly but they're all valid and will be really useful so don't hold back.

## How can you get involved in the project?

In order to be photographed you will need to be living as close as possible to Penzance or be willing and able to travel. At present I have no funding for this project and won't be able to pay for travel expenses. I may make exceptions for people that are very unwell and unable to use public transport so please do ask if this is the case. I may also have the use of a small studio but we can also use the beaches and lovely locations we have locally as well as your own home if you prefer.

**These are the questions I've devised to help us find a visual metaphor for your condition.**

1. What is your invisible illness? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If your condition was an animal what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Can you describe your condition in 3 words? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In a sentence can you describe how your condition makes you feel PHYSICALLY?
- 5.
6. In a sentence can you describe how your condition makes you feel EMOTIONALLY?

Are you happy to be photographed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you happy for your first name to be used along with your condition on the finished photograph? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Your details (confidential, between you and me)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Many Thanks! And I look forward to meeting up with you. This is a long term project so it may be weeks or months before we take the final photographs so we can all take the pressure off 😊

You can also get in touch and submit answers to the questions via email:

[photographinginvisibleillness@mail.com](mailto:photographinginvisibleillness@mail.com) or via Facebook

[www.facebook.com/photographinginvisibleillness](http://www.facebook.com/photographinginvisibleillness)

Lots more info on the website at [www.rebeccawilburphotography.com/photographing-invisible-illness](http://www.rebeccawilburphotography.com/photographing-invisible-illness)

Rebecca x