



Crisp Packet Blankets

A Partnership Project between
SI Durham and Girlguiding Durham South

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives 



Partnership with Girlguiding Durham South

- Similarities in aims and vision of both organisations
- Joint Challenge Badge 2017/18
- Raising awareness on both sides
- Mutual interest and support ever since



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Longstanding Partnership between SI Durham and Girlguiding Durham South

- Joint Challenge Badge in 2017/18
 - 70th year of SID charter
 - to raise awareness on both sides of the similarities in aims and vision of both international organisations
 - Promote both organisations in local community and beyond
 - Attract new members to both

Crisp Packet Blankets

- From a post seen on Facebook in November 2019.....
.....to a project that has taken SI Durham and Girlguiding Durham South through the Covid lockdown
- Crisp packets take 80yrs to decompose – we are turning waste into useful items
- Blankets are given to homeless in NE England and sent to Ukraine

How it Started?

GirlGuiding Durham South's County Commissioner, Di Farrer, saw adverts on Facebook from Pen Huston, who first started making blankets for homeless in November 2019.

(Pen has been featured on BBC's The One Show and on Channel 4 for her fantastic idea!)

A crisp packet takes 80 years to decompose so this project takes waste and turns it into something useful.

The foil packets make ideal survival blankets

Something useful, which diverts waste from landfill and provides comfort to those in need

30 blankets have been sent to Ukraine in addition to the blankets made for homeless in the North East of England

Making the Blankets

- 50 crisp packets, washed and flattened
- Overlap and iron together
- Fuse plastic on both sides

- 1 blanket takes 2 people approx. 2 hours to make



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Making the blankets

- Clean crisp packets
- Using greaseproof paper and an iron
- Fuse together in strips
- Fuse strips together to make a 100 x 200cm sheet
- Fuse plastic onto both sides (the stuff from furniture shops is best!)

- It takes about 2 hours for two people to make a blanket

Partnership

- The partnership has made crisp packet blankets with:
 - Guides and Brownies
 - Trefoil Guild
 - Church groups
- Design has been developed to make 'sitters' for Guide camp

Partnership

- Working together; SIDurham and Girlguiding Durham South have made blankets with
 - Guides and Brownies
 - Trefoil Guild
 - Church Groups
- The design has been developed to make sitters for guide camp. These have been made with crisp packet covers and stuffed with waste plastics to form a waterproof cushion ideal for outdoor use at camp.

Lessons Learned

- Clear instructions: CLEAN crisp packets!
- Be prepared for popularity: overwhelming donations
- Pick your packets: Certain crisp packets are too thin
- Identify need: which organisations to approach

Lessons Learned:

- Instructions need to be really clear! Some crisp packets were donated unwashed and so were unusable
- Be prepared for popularity! Just like Pen Huston, we were overwhelmed by donations – so many that blanket production couldn't keep up!
- Pick your packets! Some crisp packets weren't suitable as they were too thin
- Identify need: we needed to find the right organisations to donate the finished blankets to

Making a difference

- The Emmaus Charity in South Shields helps homeless people get back on their feet
- 10 blankets were donated to Emmaus
- The young man who accepted them on behalf of the charity was moved almost to tears:
- He said he wished he'd had something like this when he was homeless and hiding in pipes

And to finish – an example of how these blankets really make a difference:

10 blankets were donated to the Emmaus charity in South Shields and the young man who accepted them was so grateful he was close to tears.

The blankets, made from waste items, are literally changing lives.