

Bosco brings the good life to Tweeddale



**Report:
David Knox**

BOSCO is doing a Jamie.

Self-sufficiency is about to reach the tables of Peeblesshire as local chef Bosco Santimano launches his latest campaign.

Several offers of land in and around Peebles have already been made to the fledgling You Can Grow initiative.

And within the next few months, it is hoped allotment culture will return to the town.

While celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has been sowing the seeds of culinary change in Rotherham, Bosco has been getting his hands dirty on a Portuguese farm.

And the month-long lessons on self-suffi-

cient permaculture that he's learned will be the basis of the new food-for-thought scheme.

Bosco told the Peeblesshire News: "Unfortunately, I don't quite have the influence of Jamie Oliver, so we won't be able to get allotments straight away.

"Things are slowly moving forward and I am hoping to create the first community allotment pretty soon, where everyone can work together and the more people do the more of the produce they take away.

"We want Peeblesshire to grow and cook its own food - we were self-sufficient during the war and I hope we can return to that sort of living."

Bosco's You Can

Cook community company has already won contracts to teach healthy eating in hospitals.

And he hopes by adding some permaculture with the introduction of You Can Grow, he will have Peeblesshire reaping and roasting its very own produce.

Bosco added: "Permaculture goes back to traditional growing methods, where you don't sacrifice one species for another.

"I wanted to learn as much as I could about this before introducing it to Peebles, and hopefully Scotland.

"We need to start supporting local markets and producers as well taking steps to grow our own. This is the only way we can

ever prevent food shortages."

Peebles already has two allotment sites - near the Gytes and at March Street.

And dozens of farms around the area supply quality meat, poultry and vegetables.

But it is estimated that around 70 per cent of the average shopping basket comes from overseas.

And the move away from imports is likely to prove popular in Peeblesshire.

Local councillor Graham Garvie told us: "People have been asking me for some time about allotments - there are certainly a lot of people who are interested in growing their own.

"I am very supportive of what You Can

Grow is hoping to achieve and feel it is the way forward."

During Bosco's fact-finding mission to Portugal he had to work at least six-hours each day on the permaculture farm.

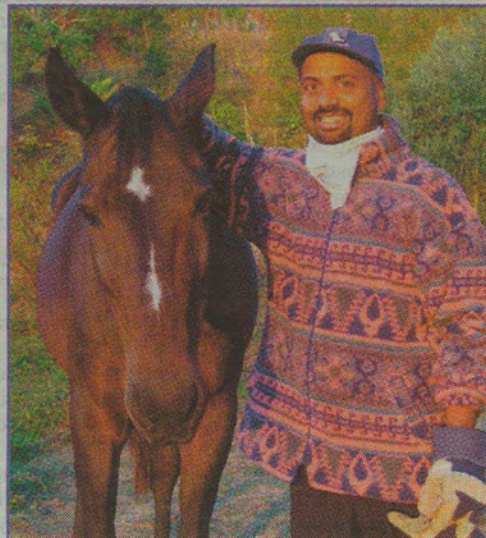
A series of workshops are being organised over the coming months by his You Can Grow company.

TOP: Left - Bosco with some of the grapes he picked on the Portuguese farm.

Right - Celebrity chef, Jamie Oliver, was also inspired by the wartime Ministry of Food and targeted the people of Rotherham in his latest TV series.



Bosco tackles the weeds during his lessons on self-sufficiency



Down on the farm: Bosco helps to make grape juice, left, and look after the horses, right.