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News

BY KATY MCGUINNESS

RATTLIN' POTS AND PANS IN ENNISCORTHY

Fáilte Ireland Food Champion, Anthony O'Toole, is one of the volunteers behind the Rockin' Food Festival in Enniscorthy, running over the August Bank Holiday weekend. There's a family focus to this year's festival, with a plethora of free food and music events, and a Street Feast with 80 artisan food and craft producers, as well as music and dancing.

There's also a selection of €5 ticketed events for children, including pizza-making classes, medieval shield/pottery making, Ancient East storytelling, Punch & Judy shows, Lego workshops, The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, R'n'R dance classes and free outdoor cinema, as well as inflatables, carousels and bungee trampolines.

The Rock 'n' Roll Vintage Steam Train is a new feature this year and departs Connolly Station at 10.30am on Sunday August 6.

Food events are to the fore, with themed workshops, a Mexican Pop-up Dinner at The Wilds with Lily Ramirez-Foran of Picado Mexican in Dublin, Tales of Ales with sisters Susan

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and Judith Boyle, Hoptails with Claire Dalton, and Whiskey & Food Pairing with Séaneen Sullivan. Free events in the food marquee include Summer Eating with chef Edward Hayden (*pictured above at the festival launch with budding cook Ellie Lopps*), Real Bread Making with baker and Fáihte Ireland Food Champion Patrick Ryan from Firehouse Bakery, Desserts with Anthony O'Toole himself, and talks and tastings with Wexford producers such as Wild About, Bean & Goose, O'Neill's Bacon, and Wexford Home Preserves.

There's also a Cooking Seafood master demo with Paul Hynes from La Cote in Wexford town. The Food & Drinks and Rock 'n' Roll Pub Gig Trails have been devised as ideal routes to discovering the diversity of the region's food and R'n'R Music.

These include Ireland's Ancient East-inspired Slaney Valley Eats, the Trendy Gin Trail and the Irish Craft Drinks Trail, which will carry on after the festival is over.

O'Toole says it has taken a lot of work to put the festival programme together, but everyone is looking forward to a great weekend and, of course, hoping that the weather obliges.

The 16-page festival brochure can be viewed at rockinfoodfestival.com.

