

Ever Been to Bean Day in Japan?

by Mark Buckton

February 3rd is known as Mame-maki on the Japanese calendar - a title referring to the belief that if you throw dry soy beans in and around your home, you will chase away evil spirits and bad luck whilst at the same time attracting good fortune.

As a traditional event practiced all over the country, TV personalities, public figures and even sumotori get in on the act by visiting local temples and shrines and throwing small bags of beans to hoards of 'worshippers.'

2008 will prove no different and public sites across Japan will host similar festivities but for sumo fans in the northern Chiba area of Narita on the day, there could be an added bonus in heading for the famed Narita-san Temple, as it is only here that both yokozuna, Hakuho and Asashoryu along with ozeki Chiyotakai (presuming his throwing arm is recovered) will entertain the crowds with their bean throwing prowess.

Kisenosato and Dejima are slated to round out the sekitori attendees

but, even if sumo is not your thing, another half dozen or so TV personalities will also be in attendance.

Catch the beans, take them home and throw them again - one for each year of your life - or so the belief goes.

For access info and the like - in English - view:

<http://www.naritasan.or.jp/english/index.html>