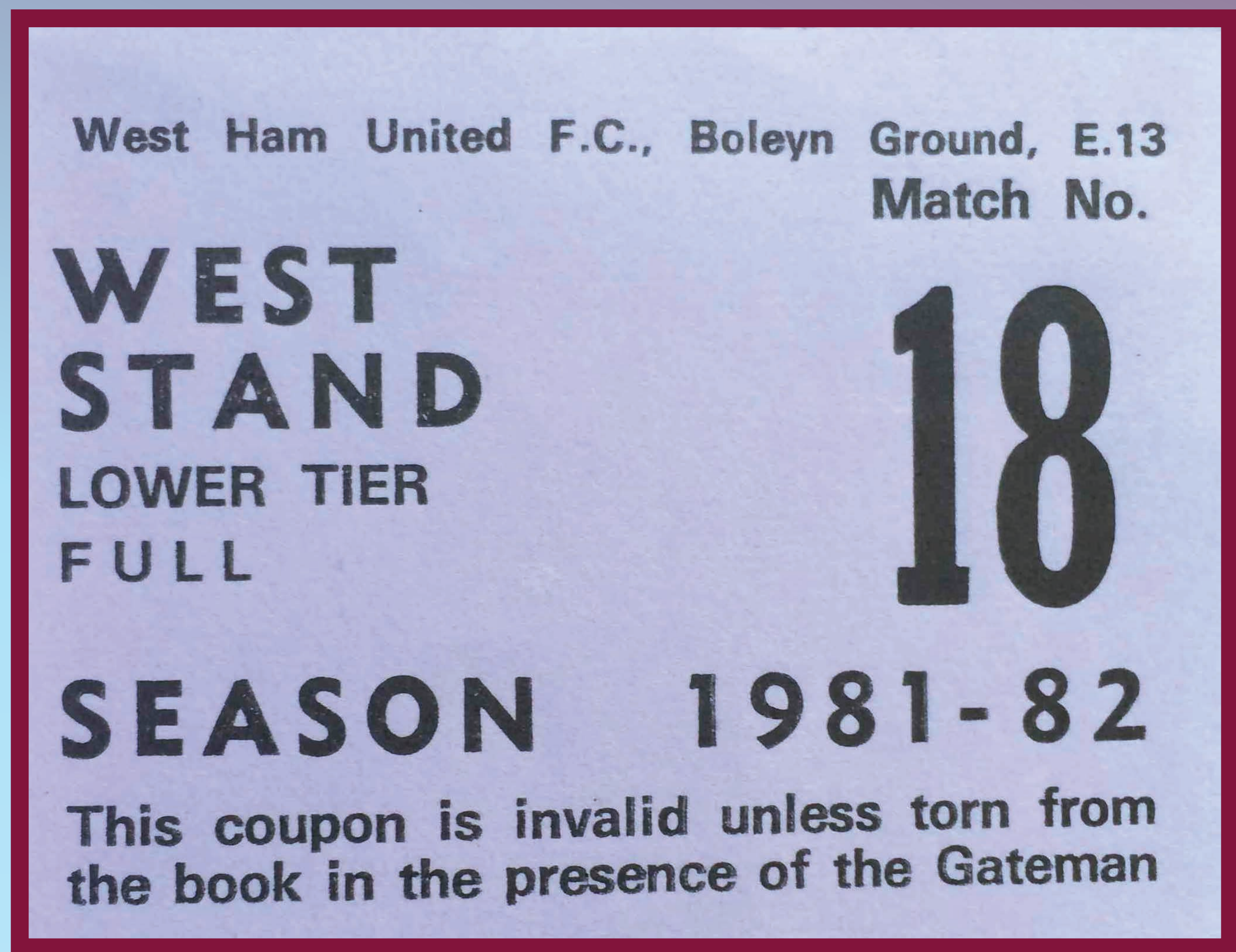




1980s - Flucuating Fortune

Under the management of John Lyall, the 1980s was a pivotal decade for the club. Despite starting out in Division 2 many key players remained loyal to West Ham F.C.. So much in 1980 West Ham United beat Arsenal to secure the FA Cup at Wembley.

“Arsenal - the Arsenal one - that’s a good memory, we really played a good game. John Lyall had a plan, they all stuck to their game and we got the early goal which gave us confidence and that was fantastic feeling when we won that game when the final whistle went and....when they was running round with the cup.” Stephen (b. 1948, fan)



Ticket stub from 1981



Frank McAvennie

“There was the Tony Cottee and Frank McAvennie, who was my Dad’s favourite players double act of 1986, one of our greatest seasons.” Lew (b. 1951, fan)

By 1989, fortune had turned her back on West Ham again and the club was relegated. After serving fifteen years as manager, John Lyall was sacked and replaced, briefly by Lou Macari and then:

“Billy Bonds became the manager there and he had success in getting the team back after some difficult times, back to the First Division and the football league.” John (West Ham Historian)



Local fans show their support

Fans watch a game from a nearby rooftop



An Eastside Community Heritage exhibition. Visit our website www.hidden-histories.org.uk