



Rose Amy Fylemann 1877-1957

Singer, teacher, Writer

Rose Amy Feilmann was born in Nottingham to German Jewish immigrant parents, her mother Emilee Loewenstein was of Russian descent and her father John was a partner in Flersheim, Feilmann & Co in the Lace Market. She was possibly born at Waterloo Crescent but by 1888 the family were living at 7 Cavendish Crescent in the Park. Rose was the third of five children. Rose attended University College but didn't finish her course instead she trained as a singer in Paris, Berlin and London. She gained a diploma from London's Royal College of Music. She made her debut in a Promenade Concert at Queen's Hall in London in August 1903 billed as Fraulein Rose Feilmann of Berlin! Around this time her father died and in 1912 the family moved to 10 Pelham Terrace (now 29 Newcastle Drive) a house designed in 1850's by T C Hine. Her sister Gertrude's ran a private school from the house and Rose taught music, though she still appeared on stage. When WW1 began many German people who were British subjects felt insecure and changed their names, so Feilmann became Fyleman. When she was 40 Rose began her writing career and her famous fairy poem '*There are fairies at the bottom of my garden*' was published in Punch magazine in 1917, and her first collection *Fairies and Chimneys* followed in 1918 and it was reprinted 20 times over the next decade. She also wrote short stories and plays for children. In 1927 she published '*A Princess comes to our town*' a fantasy set in Nottingham which recognisably describes the town in 1920's. Princess Finestra leaves Fairyland and to put off the evil day when she must marry a boring old prince she lands in Nottingham where she was taken to Standard Hill – very close to 2 Castle Place where Rose was then living. Princess Finestra is a feisty young woman with a bag full of magic objects which can only be used once before she must return home. She has various adventures in the Arboretum, swimming

baths and the Castle – she also spends the night with Queen Victoria and a fire engine!

Rose was a member of Bromley House library. She moved to London in late 1920's and continued to write educational material for children and more fiction and plays. She died in St Albans in 1957 and is buried in Golders Green cemetery. In May 2023 Five Leaves republished *A Princess comes to our Town* and a launch event was held at Bromley House library with an opening address by Ro Edlin-White.

