

meet up often. From here The Camellia became full time honorary job for me, a job for 7 days a week and at least 6 to 7 hours a day. Then entered Rhinusmita Lahkar (fondly known as Tulip). She came with the knowledge of editing and formatting. She gave The Camellia its best formats. My genuine appreciation of her work coaxed her to put in her best. She changed the look of The Camellia content page, mail box and formatted many cover pages with new ideas to the perfection. Even after I left she continued but then moved out of district and got busy with her little babies. Vidhya Kaul and Gowri Mohankrishnan, besides sending excellent write-ups, started helping with editing.

There were initial hitches and anxiety the sort one would face starting on an un-traveled road.. Our anxieties were of those kinds of being overcautious as all the fields from editing, formatting, distribution, correspondence were new to us and yet the ecstasies of watching The Camellia getting overwhelming responses from readers made us forget all the labour pains. I was also aware that sooner or later I would have to let it go, as you let go your child. Another Tea generation was getting ready to take the mantle to carry it on and to bring in new ideas, new look. In the process of evolution change is inevitable. As long as it is in responsible hands I will cherish its growth and revel in its success.

I found that person in Mridula Anand. She has proved to be the worthy successor - very responsible, dedicated and efficient. She also has a keen eye for the details and right aptitude to do things to perfection. She brought a professional look to Cha Chat column the way she conducted the interviews. I can never thank her enough as i know from experience it is not an easy task and often thankless too. She must have faced umpteen problems during this journey. Curtailing four issues in a year to two must have been a tough decision. I understand as despite many reminders the write ups would not come. With the advent of Social Media Face Book , whats App, people had started spending more time there. It must have been a mammoth task for her to persuade people. Yet people wanted The Camellia to go on. She found the wisest solution , curtailing the number but not compromising on the quality. Infact it is now much thicker and glosier with lot more color pages. What I appreciate the most about her is her perseverance to carry on. It works wonders as it surely does with me. It keeps the bit of writer in me alive.

I firmly believe that we have all been granted a unique set of gifts; some write well, some paint, others embroider; some cook and others keep the house well and each could find an expression on The Camellia pages. Here I must mention that respective club correspondents have been playing a major role in its growth. Their work is to coax people to send articles, collection of subscription from their respective club memebtrs, write 'In Focus' quarterly rounds of her respective club activities, get photographs and send to the editor. I salute these young ladies who despite a very busy routine have been doing their job marvelously and trying to meet the given deadline.

Growth is of two types, one of spirit that is its content, needs constant participation from all of you, as at The Camellia our readers are our writers. This can be achieved when each one of The Camellia family members feel bonded to it and positively keep feeding it with more articles, their mails and works of art. It is also directly linked with the club activities. Few of the grand Tea clubs, once spread over length and breadth of North East Tea Plantations have been forced to slow down, yet many have not only survived but also flourished with changing times. I am proud to say that in many ways the Camellia has inspired some of not very active clubs to perk up their club activities as the most oft-repeated sentence at any club function then was and i think still is " lets take picture for The Camellia." Very often it is in the repentance of a lost opportunity one realizes the real value of what one had. Don't let that happen to our precious legacy of koi - hai clubs and The Camellia, which is your own voice.