

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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## GREETINGS . . .

from the schizophrenic state of Ted Cruz and Wendy Davis.

## DON'T GET EXCITED

We're both enjoying a relatively stress-free life. We love to read. Matt's current favorites are mysteries by Lee Child. Holly discovered the Canadian mystery writer Louise Penny. We got to see our favorite musician, Richard Thompson, twice this year, and also enjoyed a recent concert by the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.

We hosted a couple from NYC during the annual South by Southwest music festival in March, in exchange for free rent next time we visit New York.

## HOLLY IS PRE-TIRING

Our big news is that Holly is leaving the University of Texas, where she's been employed as a researcher and lecturer for the past 14 years, at the end of the year. She's calling this "pre-tirement." After a couple of months to relax, she'll assess whether it's time to look for another job, volunteer, take

classes, or give in to full-time couch potato-hood.

## MATT IS NOT

Matt continues to work on the ACL2 Theorem Prover. This year's annual ACL2 conference went well. Matt's been able to focus on what he wants to do at work, at his own pace. He is still enjoying his job at the University of Texas, but will keep his eyes open for how Holly's pre-tirement goes.



Matt Eyeing Pastries in Cornwall

## SUMMER IN ENGLAND

We were again lucky to spend some time in England this summer. We

spent three weeks in Cambridge, where Matt worked with his colleague Mike Gordon, and a week in Cornwall. Unfortunately the country was experiencing record heat, which is no fun when the point was to get OUT of the heat in Texas. We were also reminded what lame tourists we are – we HATE museums. However, we like the food, as the photos show, and love taking long walks, drinking hard cider and watching our favorite shows before they make it to the US.



Holly Having Tea in Cornwall

## HEALTH NEWS

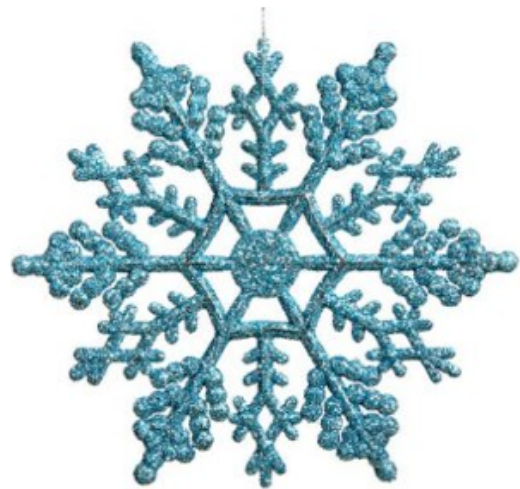
Since we are in the 60-ish set, this is the requisite section about our health. Holly continues to be cancer-free. We're both now on statins for cholesterol. Holly has a personal trainer and goes to the gym about twice a week, reducing back and hip pain. We still walk every day. We've also both been experiencing, oh, what is it, um, you know, what do you call it? Oh, yeah, memory problems.

## OTHER NEWS

The station wagon we bought right before we got married (nearly 20 years ago!) was spending way too much time in the shop, so Matt negotiated a great deal on a new 2013 Chevy Volt. A plug-in car – who'd have believed it! We also splurged and bought a Roomba, a vacuum-cleaning robot. We feel like the Jetsons.

We also confess to enjoying TV shows where bad guys get blown up. (Hmm, maybe it IS time to retire . . . ) As a break from the mayhem, Holly loves watching *Downton Abbey* and *Call the Midwife*.

So, that's the news on our end. Looking forward to hearing from you!



WISHING YOU A LOVELY  
HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL  
THE BEST IN 2014!