Acknowledgements: a hitchhiker's guide to the journey

This project has spanned many years and circumstances and involved so many people that this is a long list. In the great gift economy, reciprocity is everything, so if I have left you out by accident then I am truly sorry.

Impossible to forget have been the constant belief and dedicated empathy of two unique individuals. My fellow author, musician, sportsman and friend James Bar Bowen has shared this project with a fascination equal to my own over many years and read, edited and contributed ideas to every draft chapter. This has been his book as much as mine and his dedication to it has been unswerving, entertaining and relentlessly pedantic. My debt to long-time colleague Dr Nicole Matthews is similarly profound, for her continuous intellectual enthusiasm and personal encouragement (whether on a Scottish mountain or across twelve time zones). This book is yours too. Thank you.

I wish to thank all of the staff at Manchester University Press who have worked on this book and believed in its vision (including three anonymous reviewers). A personal thank you to Thomas Dark for being a supportive and insightful editor when it came to making tough decisions that retained the view from the passenger's seat. I am grateful for the help of Dr Lucy Burns on visual editing and to Chris Hart and Rebecca Mortimer for marketing the book to the wider world. My diligent copy-editor Ralph Footring deserves a lot of credit for helping to 'beautify' the prose on the final edit and in wise and instructive ways.

This project began gestating around 1993, after half a dozen people met up with the intention of forming a hitchhiking research collective called the Yorkshire Hitching Project. They managed a couple of workshops, compiled a newsletter (*The Frozen Thumb!*) and encouraged a number of dangerous eco-activists to keep hitchhiking diaries. Those people still remain committed to what appears here, and I thank Fiona Weir, Helen Kenwright and Clive Fudge for that enriching springboard; I also thank the diarists for their

enthusiasm – Spencer Coake, Chris Swinburne, Claire Manners, Alex Begg, Roxanne Smith, Steve Rumbol, Cathy Ashley, Krayg from Lostwiththiel, James from Faslane Peace Camp – and others who took an interest at that time. Thanks to my Anarchist Research Group colleagues of those days for comment on my work, especially Tom Cahill, Sharif Gemie and Paul Rosen. An important voice throughout this project has been Ste Kenwright, whose interest and songs about life's roads play on in these pages.

To my favourite teacher and Romantic poet, Alan Newton, MA (of Hull), who taught me exceptional life lessons, including hitchhiking and fell walking at night: 'The pastoral mountains front you: face to face'.

To those who saw the long-time nature of the project and understood how to support it with wisdom and compassion: Olive Bowers, Stuart and Louise Ethelston-Clarke, Sebastian and Beatrice Brooke, and all of my wider transatlantic family of Purkises, Sorics, Landors and Katzes.

Nearer to home I have been graced with a fine set of regular well-wishers and news-watchers: Jacqueline Gaile, Matthew Bake, Mark Whyatt, Jamie M. Cooper, Karl Hornsby, Gillian, Hugh, Petronella and the rest of Clan MacNaghten, Nigel Sprigings, Alistair MacDonald, Tony Bowers, Alison Lock, Ian Prady, Dave Rigby, M. Valerio, Roger Cummings, Camilla and Tristram Kennedy-Harper, Jean Margetts, Sohail Khan, Tim 'Otter' Richmond, David North, Robin Stephenson, Lynne Russell, Barth Landor and the late Steve Perkins. Regular members of the Marsden-based Friday night footballers and the Sleepers Cricket Club have been personally supportive on a weekly basis for many years, whilst showing that travel as community is still possible!

In June 2009 I wrote a letter to the *Guardian* newspaper which yielded considerable response. Chapter 5 would be so much the poorer without the interest of Derek Foxman, whose insights and wonderful diaries I have attempted to dramatise! A special mention too for Cora Brockwell for the most beautiful anecdote of this project and the late Alison Prince for a writer's view of these issues. In addition, for all of their inspiring recollections of mid-twentieth-century hitchhiking I would like to thank: Lesley Morrison, Harriet Wordsworth, Deirdre Toomey, Donald Cole, David Lane, Martin Evans, David Watts, Geoff and Shirley Clayton, D. W. Findley, Jeffrey Portch, Alan Weir, John Black, A. F. Bennett, Dr C. Durie, Peter Rybolowitz, John Kennedy, Antonia Lister-Kaye, Barbara Noble, Dick Bentley, Sandy Gordon, Alan Weir, Jean Spinner, Simon Barnes, Diana Brown, Peter Stott, Bernard Lloyd, Celia Deerhart, David Gilbert, Leslie Caplin, Caroline Scott, Rob Tressidor, Philip Ashbourne, Alexander Barr and Valerie Lynch. To Alexander Ferguson (and his mate Tom) for discussion of the Croatia Link

Development Charity hitch on the Dover to Calais ferry and over email in 2013, and to Mathilde Ippolito for her interest in my work.

Hitchhiking serendipity lies behind my debt to Jona Redslob, who supplied me with invaluable information on the politics of hitchhiking competitions, which would not have happened if my friend Jacqueline Gaile had not stopped for Jona's friend Hannes Kühn hitching near Manchester. I am deeply indebted to Dana M. Williams for uplifting discussions on the intersections between hitchhiking, sociology and anarchism and to Professor Ruth Kinna for comments on 'The hitchhiker as a theorist' for her collection *The Bloomsbury companion to anarchism*. Discussions with the playwright Kieran Hurley about his 2010 play *Hitch* were really important to how I wrote Chapter 2. Thanks to the Huddersfield media group of researchers – Sean Leonard, Caroline Pringle and Clare Jenkins – for trying to get hitchhiking 'out there' in the ether.

The enthusiasm and experience of the following have spurred me on to think about hitchhiking in invigorating ways: Christopher Whitely, Sheri Lowther, Paul Kennedy, Deirdre Bergson, Philippe Denzinger, Anna Mills, Alex Jolly, Julian Brotherton, Christopher Sleight and Avantika Taneja. Some of the early research for this book was undertaken whilst working at Liverpool John Moores University between 1998 and 2006 and I am grateful for research leave in spring 2004. Thanks to my former colleagues for their interest, especially Professors Joe Moran and Gerry Smythe (and his list of hitching songs). I also raise a thumb to Graeme Chesters and David Smith for engaging with hitchhiking in thoughtful ways, and to Bernd Wechner and Mario Rinvulcri for some truly pioneering research. All UK hitchhikers owe a considerable debt to Simon Calder, who continues to wave his hitching sign in every professional context possible.

During the final stages of this project it was a privilege to be able to connect with some of the people whose lives and work have touched me over many years and I am grateful for the kind words of support from: Alyssa Hoseman, Miran Ipavec, Ana Bakran, Macdonald Stainsby, Anton Krotov, Bernd Wechner, Robert Prins, Shelley Segal, Mirek Wojcik from the band Czerwono-Czarni and Jon Szanto from the Harry Partch Estate.

From the outskirts of Carlisle (England) in 1982 to a lonely road on South Uist (Scotland) in 2009, I have received lifts from 1,309 drivers and their companions or families. I salute all of you for your faith in people.

Sections of this book have been written during tough periods in my personal life and I thank Chris Cameron, Carolyn Garland, Russ Elias, Martin Loughna, Diane Dequeno, Bryan Bayley, Sammi Burrows, Anna Thomas, Venessa and Uriel Ama-Hart for their friendships, and kind words

of advice and professional support. Thanks to Huddersfield Quakers and Green Building Store for providing somewhere to work when needed and to Martyn Cowell for six months of inspiring writing accommodation in Staithes, North Yorkshire. Much of the book's second draft was worked on in Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. The importance of this cannot be overstated. I am grateful to Jean and David Burchell for the regular use of their flat at Tannery Brae, and to those friendly folk in the town who helped me do that in their many (mostly unknown) ways.

Deepest gratitude to my dedicated readers: my oldest friend, Catherine Harvey, who enthusiastically commented on every second-draft chapter and held my hand through many long dark teatimes of the soul (as Douglas Adams might have said); the talented Huddersfield writer Georgina Hutchison, for her specialist psychology advice and the inspired times and words we shared on the 'Alaska Highway'; and to the playwright Vashti MacLachlan for walking the final lines of the project with me across many an anxious mile.

Most of all, my fellow life travellers and support team – Chayley Collis, long-time sufferer of my creative indulgences, and Murray Purkis, a hitchhiker at eighteen months old and whose drawings, ideas and website designs constantly gave me hope throughout this long journey: 'It's not possible!'; 'No. It's necessary.'