# Stirling lecturer and Greg James team up for surprising wasp-themed Taylor Swift parody on Radio 1



A recent unexpected collaboration on BBC Radio 1 saw a Stirling University lecturer, Rebecca Boulton, known affectionately as Becky, team up with DJ Greg James for a memorable live performance. The pair showcased an amusing duet featuring wasp impressions set to the familiar melody of Taylor Swift's hit "Anti-Hero." This playful rendition not only entertained listeners but also highlighted important ecological messages surrounding the often-misunderstood insect.

Becky, a wasp biologist, originally crafted the parody for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last year, aiming to reshape public perceptions of wasps and to shed light on their crucial role in our ecosystem. “What they don’t know is my sisters and I stopped a famine, so maybe get off of my case,” she sang, cleverly framing wasps as vital contributors to biodiversity. Her portrayal of wasps serves a dual purpose, combining entertainment with education to shift the often negative reputations they carry.

After the performance, Greg James expressed his genuine appreciation, saying, “Becky, that is so good. I love you for that and I love your brain.” His enthusiasm reflects the ethos he has fostered since taking over the Radio 1 Breakfast Show in 2018, which prioritises listener engagement and creating a welcoming atmosphere. James has become known for incorporating wildlife discussions and humorous segments, enriching the show's dynamic and bringing diverse topics to the forefront.

Becky’s journey to this radio performance was serendipitous. As an avid listener of the breakfast show, she was inspired to reach out to Greg after hearing a segment about flies, which rekindled her enthusiasm for her song. The spontaneity of their duet, born from her day-to-day work in wasp genetics, transformed an ordinary lab day into a memorable moment shared with a national audience. Reflecting on this unique opportunity, Becky remarked, “Talking to Greg on Radio 1 and doing a duet of our song was a great opportunity to spread my love for wasps.”

This collaboration not only highlights the blend of science and entertainment but also embodies a growing trend of utilising popular media platforms to advocate for environmental causes. As public awareness of biodiversity issues increases, engaging formats like Becky’s parody can effectively foster a deeper appreciation of often-overlooked creatures. The enthusiastic reception of her performance underscores a potential shift in public attitudes towards wasps and may encourage further dialogue about their ecological significance.

In an anecdotal twist, Becky teased a potential future project—a parody of "Blurred Lines," focusing on the evolution of insect genitalia—indicating that her creative intersection of science and music is far from over. The positive response from both the audience and Greg James suggests that this crossover could become a regular feature, benefitting not just scientific understanding but also the enjoyment of listeners across the country.

As Greg James continues to innovate on his show, this duet stands out as a shining example of how modern media can amplify vital ecological conversations, all while providing moments of joy and humour to its audience.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/aug/20/greg-james-puts-listeners-centre-stage-on-radio-1-breakfast-debut), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255715/stirling-lecturer-greg-james-wasp-duet/> - Rebecca Boulton, a wasp biologist at Stirling University, joined BBC Radio 1's Greg James for a live performance of her wasp-themed parody of Taylor Swift's 'Anti-Hero'. The song aims to improve the public's perception of wasps by highlighting their ecological importance. Greg James praised the performance, expressing his admiration for Rebecca's creativity. Rebecca, a regular listener of the show, seized the opportunity to share her passion for wasps with a wider audience.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/aug/20/greg-james-puts-listeners-centre-stage-on-radio-1-breakfast-debut> - Greg James began his tenure as the host of BBC Radio 1's Breakfast Show in August 2018, focusing on listener engagement and creating a welcoming atmosphere. His debut featured a variety of topics, including wildlife discussions and humorous segments, setting a positive tone for his new role. The show aimed to connect with the audience by addressing diverse interests and fostering a sense of community.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-32837393> - In May 2015, BBC Radio 1 DJ Greg James was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of East Anglia (UEA). James, who studied drama at UEA and presented on the student radio station, expressed his gratitude for the recognition, highlighting the university's significant role in his career. The ceremony also honoured other distinguished individuals, including Father Ted co-writer Graham Linehan and broadcaster Dame Jenni Murray.
5. <https://radiotoday.co.uk/2025/01/greg-james-quits-bbc-radio-1-in-a-joke-social-media-post/> - In January 2025, Greg James playfully announced his departure from BBC Radio 1's Breakfast Show via social media, citing corporate control as the reason. This humorous post was a response to recent discussions about the BBC's partnership with Glastonbury, showcasing James's penchant for light-hearted banter with his audience. Fans quickly recognised the jest, appreciating his comedic approach to the news.
6. <https://www.hercampus.com/school/uea/hc-uea-campus-celebrity-greg-james/> - Greg James, a UEA alumnus, studied drama and was actively involved in the university's student radio station, Livewire 1350AM. After graduating in 2007, he joined BBC Radio 1, where he became a prominent DJ and TV presenter. His connection to UEA remains strong, with his contributions to the university's media community being celebrated.
7. <https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/tv/features/greg-james-interview-radio-1-b1984914.html> - In an interview, Greg James discussed his career trajectory, including his transition from the University of East Anglia to BBC Radio 1. He shared insights into his broadcasting style, emphasizing listener engagement and his passion for radio. James also touched upon his involvement in the cricket podcast 'Tailenders' and his approach to celebrity interviews, highlighting his preference for genuine conversations over traditional formats.