



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Born Free actress Virginia McKenna to attend Burton on Trent charity ball

**Tickets now available for this very special Christmas event!**

Legendary Born Free actress and wildlife campaigner Virginia McKenna OBE will be guest of honour at a special charity ball at Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium, on Saturday 24th November.

The Christmas-themed evening will include dinner, a disco, entertainment and a celebrity auction, with funds raised going to international wildlife charity Born Free, which was founded by Virginia, her late husband Bill Travers MBE, and their eldest son Will Travers OBE.

Event organisers, Derby-based wildlife lovers, Val Hackett and Mike Carey, have supported Born Free since 1994, when they read about Riki, a leopard cub who was rescued from a 6ft x 6ft cage on top of a disco building in Tenerife, along with two lions, Raffi and Anthea. Having made a donation to Born Free's appeal to rescue the terrified animals, and re-home them at their sanctuary in South Africa, Val and Mike decided to do all they could to raise funds for Born Free. This ball will be the 16th event they have hosted, and they have raised over £500,000 for the charity's conservation work to date.

Val, says: *"We are passionate about the aims and objectives of the Born Free Foundation and keeping wildlife in the wild. We try to raise awareness every day. It is a privilege to be involved. We are delighted to be able to organise another event in aid of this amazing charity and we promise everyone who attends will have a wonderful evening!"*

**Spaces for the 2018 event are still available and would make a perfect night out for Christmas! Tickets cost just £40 a head.**

**Details of how to obtain tickets can be found on the Born Free website [www.bornfree.org.uk](http://www.bornfree.org.uk) or through contacting Val directly at: [vjhackett21@gmail.com](mailto:vjhackett21@gmail.com)**

**-ENDS-**

**Image: © George Logan**

**About Born Free:**

Born Free's mission is to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect and are able to live their lives according to their needs. Born Free opposes the exploitation of wild animals in captivity and campaigns to keep wildlife in the wild.

Born Free promotes Compassionate Conservation to enhance the survival of threatened species in the wild and protect natural habitats while respecting the needs of and safeguarding the welfare of individual animals. Born Free seeks to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world. For more information about Born Free please visit: [www.bornfree.org.uk](http://www.bornfree.org.uk)

**FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES RELATING TO LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS ONLY PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**FOR ALL OTHER NEWS AND MEDIA ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT OUR PR AGENCY:**

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