The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world’s most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society’s fundamental purpose, as it has been since its foundation in 1660, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

The Society’s strategic priorities emphasise its commitment to the highest quality science, to curiosity-driven research, and to the development and use of science for the benefit of society. These priorities are:

- Promoting science and its benefits
- Recognising excellence in science
- Supporting outstanding science
- Providing scientific advice for policy
- Fostering international and global cooperation
- Education and public engagement

For further information on the Royal Society
The Royal Society
6 – 9 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG
T +44 20 7451 2500
W royalsociety.org

For further information on Interface Focus
T +44 20 7451 2649
E focus@royalsociety.org
W royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rsfs

The origin of life: the submarine alkaline vent theory at 30
Theme issue organised by Julyan Cartwright and Michael Russell