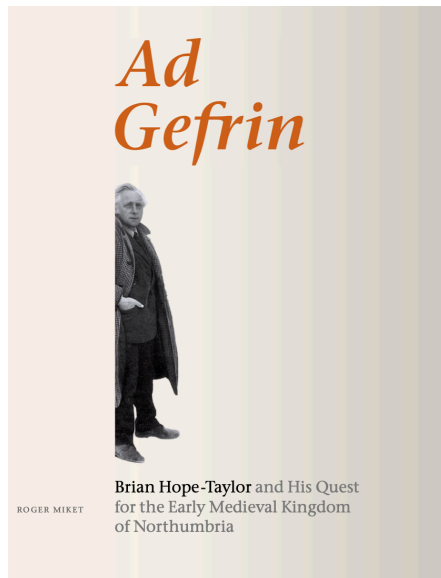


PRESS RELEASE

Gefrin Trust Publication

[Yeavinger, Northumberland—2 February 2026] The Gefrin Trust is delighted to announce the publication of a landmark volume by Roger Miket, entitled *Ad Gefrin: Brian Hope-Taylor and His Quest for the Early Medieval Kingdom of Northumbria*.



2025. Roger Miket. With contributions from Ian Ralston, David Petts, and Graeme Young. *Ad Gefrin: Brian Hope-Taylor and His Quest for the Early Medieval Kingdom of Northumbria*. Crown Quarto (285x213mm) Cased, with dust cover, 336 pages, over 150 illustration (incl. colour). *The Gefrin Trust*.

To order, please visit the Ad Gefrin website or stop by Ad Gefrin's Wooler visitor centre and store: <https://adgefrin.co.uk/> (South Road, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6NJ)

Price: £35.00

Follow The Gefrin Trust on:



For over 70 years, two archaeological sites have dominated the story of early medieval Britain, representing twin strands of life and death: the fabulously rich 7th-century kingly burial at Sutton Hoo and the 6th- to 7th-century royal township of Ad Gefrin, described by Bede as the seasonal residence of King Edwin. These sites were relocated within a decade of each other in the 20th century: Sutton Hoo on the cusp of WWII and Ad Gefrin in the immediately post-war period.

The excavation of Ad Gefrin (1953-1962) by a young artist, Brian Hope-Taylor, marked a defining moment in British archaeology. Hope-Taylor's account in *Yeavinger, An Anglo-British centre of early Northumbria* (1977) captivated its readers with its compelling story of a Northumbrian kingdom at the height of its powers, on the eve of a Golden Age of cultural achievement. Over half a century later, the excavation continues to be regarded by many as the finest example of forensic archaeology of its day and its excavation report a masterly exemplar of interpretation and presentation.

This new publication tells the fascinating history of this site, of its discovery and excavation, and of the struggle by its excavator to wrest something of this lost world from the sandy soils. Set within a world of mid 20th-century archaeology, it also shows how the close interplay between an undoubtedly gifted but complex personality interacted with the site to shape the way early medieval kingship and its archaeology would be viewed to this day.

To understand Yeavinger and the several other important sites on which he worked we must understand Hope-Taylor. This fascinating volume is based on a meticulous use of archives, and also on the last living memories of those events. It paints a vivid and compelling picture not just of Hope-Taylor, but of British archaeological culture in the immediately post-war period.

John Blair

Emeritus Professor of Medieval History, University of Oxford