# TODAY IN CHEMISTRY HISTORY

## 12TH MAY – DOROTHY HODGKIN'S BIRTHDAY

### DOROTHY HODGKIN

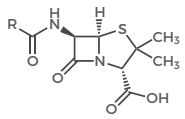
**BORN**

12 May 1910

**DIED**

29 July 1994

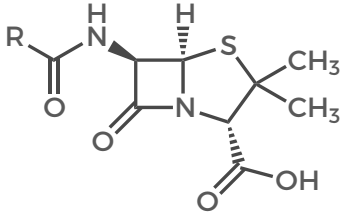
**1964**



Hodgkin used X-ray crystallography to determine the structure of vitamin $B_{12}$, for which she won a Nobel Prize. She went on to determine the structure of insulin.

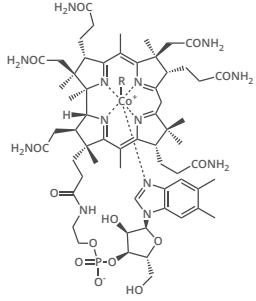
## KEY STRUCTURES DETERMINED BY HODGKIN

### PENICILLIN (1945)



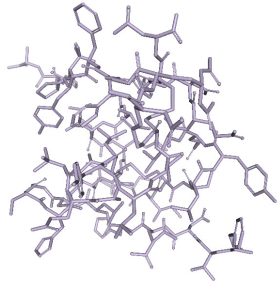
Hodgkin confirmed the structure of penicillin – the first time the structure of a whole molecule had been calculated using X-ray data.

### VITAMIN $B_{12}$ (1955)



Vitamin $B_{12}$ was, at the time, the most complex molecule tackled by X-ray crystallography. Its structure took Hodgkin eight years to solve.

### INSULIN (1969)



Hodgkin first grew crystals of insulin in 1935, but it was another 34 years before she determined its three-dimensional structure.