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After 25 years practising as a solicitor in West Berkshire, I think I can say that my conveyancing work has covered every sort of property transaction. If proof were needed here are two examples of out of the ordinary deals I have been involved in. The purchase of a public convenience – well you can't get much smaller than that. I hasten to say that it was disused and it was later converted into a 'bijou' residence, as estate agents would say. On another occasion I was involved in the purchase of extra land so that a graveyard could be extended. Long experience has taught me that anything to do with church land can be fraught with difficulties but this time I was somewhat dismayed to find that the Diocese, from whom the church was buying the land, put a restriction on it so that it couldn't be used for 'religious purposes'. I did manage to get it sorted out but I never could imagine what other use a graveyard could be put to. Along the way there have been all sorts of interesting properties, including a castle and an island, wonderful insights into local history and best of all meeting a wide variety of people. At the moment I've got a sale of a park home and a purchase of a £2m country house and a lot in between. Are there 'green shoots'? I don't know any more than anyone else, but certainly I am busier than I've been for months. DHC