

Only formal dress will do for resident glassblower Allister Malcolm at The White House Cone Museum of Glass, Stourbridge

Furnace is lit again at historic glass site

A FURNACE erupted into life at the weekend on the site of a Black Country glass factory for the first time in 15 years.

Allister Malcolm, resident glass blower at the new White House Glass Cone Museum of Glass in Wordsley, on the site of the Stuart Crystal works, even wore a white shirt and black bow tie for the special occasion during a sneak preview before the official opening.

The 41-year-old produced the first piece of glass to be made at the new museum – a gold platter with a hint of aquamarine and a series of stripes of coloured glass with gold inclusions.

"Historically this will be very important piece and so I dressed accordingly. This is a very special place," he said

The museum has been built with £2.1 million funding from the European Development Fund and a £900,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The centre, supported by the British Glass Foundation, replaces Broadfield House glass museum and celeberates the area's glass industry heritage.